

FULL
68 PAGES

AMAZING STORIES



No.
66

Sinister TALES 1½

WAS SHE A WOMAN... OR
A SAVAGE JUNGLE BEAST?
LEARN HER STARTLING
SECRET IN...
**"The TIMELESS
TRIBE!"**



COULD PEOPLE LIVE ON THROUGH THE THOUSANDS OF YEARS IN A STRANGE VALLEY... OR WAS THERE SOME DEADLY AND DANGEROUS MYSTERY HERE? YOU WON'T BELIEVE THE AMAZING ANSWER... BUT YOU'LL SHUDDER AT...

The TIMELESS TRIBE!



STORY:
ADAM
BARR
ART:
KEN LANDAU



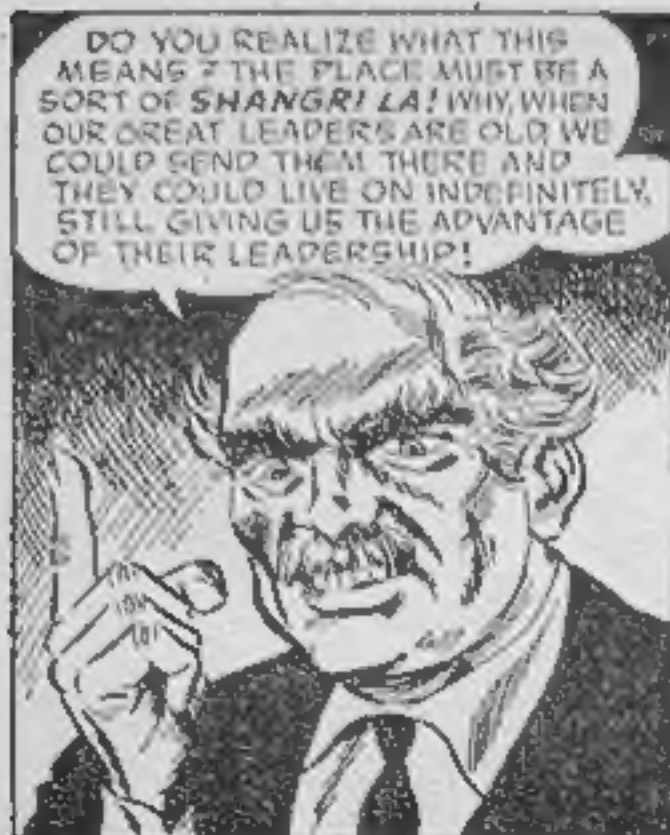
THAT'S RIGHT... ALL WE FOUND WAS HIS BODY, LOOKING AS IF HE'D BEEN TORN APART BY FIENDISH BEASTS. HIS DIARY LAY NEARBY. HAVE A LOOK AT IT, ROD!

THIS IS... **UNBELIEVABLE!** HE ACTUALLY CLAIMS TO HAVE HIT ON THE REMNANTS OF AN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION INHABITED BY THE VERY PEOPLE WHO'D LIVED THERE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS! NOT THEIR DESCENDANTS, BUT THE **SAME PEOPLE!**

UH-HUH. HE

ESTABLISHED THAT THEY WERE THE SAME PEOPLE BY ANCIENT PAINTINGS OF THEM... AND THEY HADN'T CHANGED A BIT OVER THE CENTURIES!





BUT YOU'D BE WRONG. TAKE
A LOOK AT THAT STATUE'S FACE.
ISN'T IT... CHANGING?



THAT LIGHT... IT WAS A SIGNAL! AND
FROM THE FOREST THERE CRYPT...



AND AS THE DEADLY BEASTS GATHERED
ABOUT THE GIRL, ANOTHER CHANGE
BEGAN TO
TAKE PLACE!







WHY DID YOU SPARE HIM, LEONA? ALL WERE TO DIE... YOU KNOW THAT.

I... I THOUGHT IT BETTER TO FIND OUT FIRST WHAT HE KNOWS ABOUT US, AND IF OTHERS KNOW OF OUR EXISTENCE. WE'LL TAKE HIM BACK WITH US, SO I CAN QUESTION HIM WHEN HE RECOVERS.



HE WAS GRAVELY WOUNDED... BUT LEONA THREW ALL HER EFFORT INTO NURSING HIM...

HE'S GOT TO LIVE... HE'S GOT TO...



AND IN HIS DELIRIUM, HE'D SEE HER LOVELY FACE BENT OVER HIM...

TRY TO LIVE FOR ME!



YES, HE RECOVERED... AND IT WAS A WONDERFUL RECOVERY PERIOD...

I CAN'T GET OVER IT... SUCH A LOVELY PERSON AS YOU... AND AS GOOD AS YOU'RE LOVELY. ANOTHER THING I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IS HOW YOU MANAGE TO SPEAK MY LANGUAGE.

LET'S JUST SAY... THAT I COME FROM AN AMAZING PEOPLE!



BUT YOU'VE ALREADY FOUND OUT EVERYTHING WE WANT TO KNOW... THAT HE'S BEEN SENT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT US, THE EXACT LOCATION OF THIS PLACE... WHY KEEP HIM ALIVE ANY LONGER?

WELL... THERE MAY BE OTHER THINGS OF VALUE TO FIND OUT FROM HIM. JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER, PLEASE!

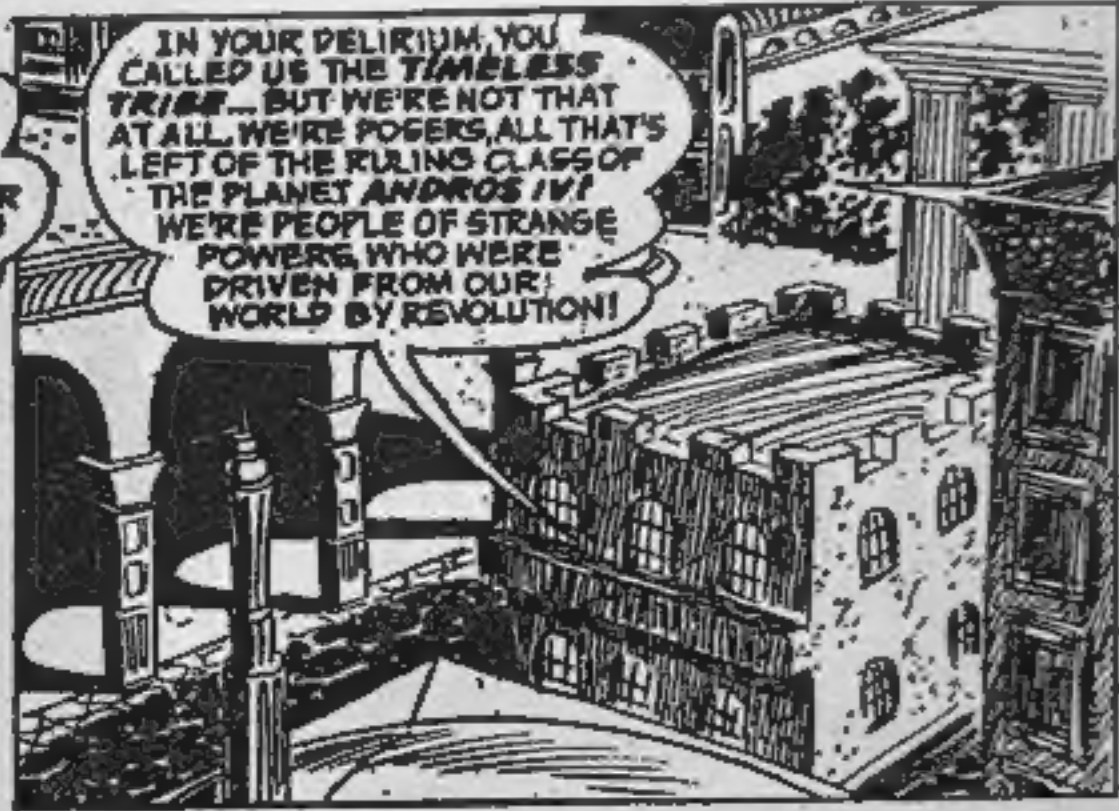


SHE DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO ADMIT TO HERSELF WHAT WAS HAPPENING...

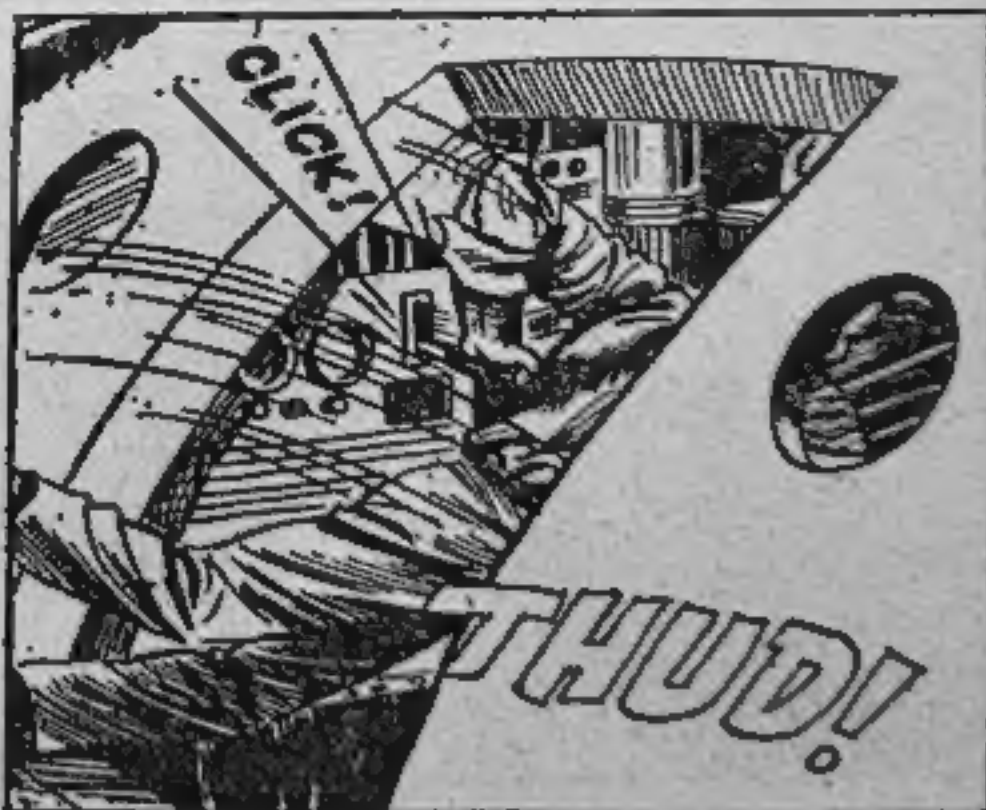
YOU'RE LOOKING AT ME SO STRANGELY, ROD. AND THAT SMILE... WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

ONLY THAT I'VE MADE A DISCOVERY. I'VE BEEN THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD... SINCE I MET YOU! CONFESS... DON'T YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY?



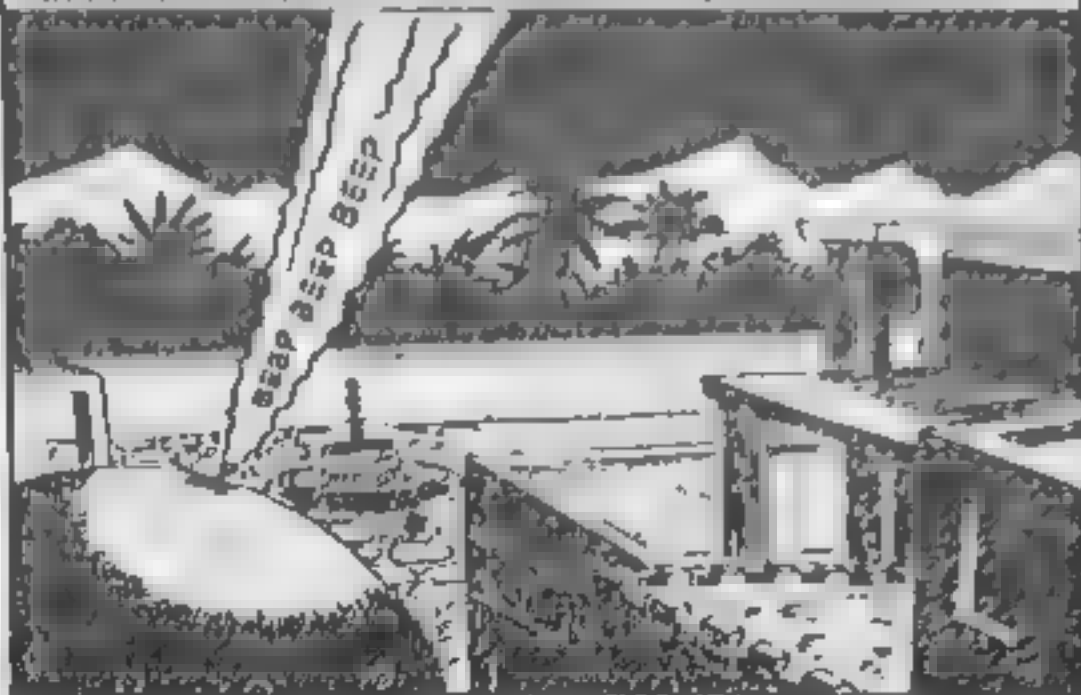




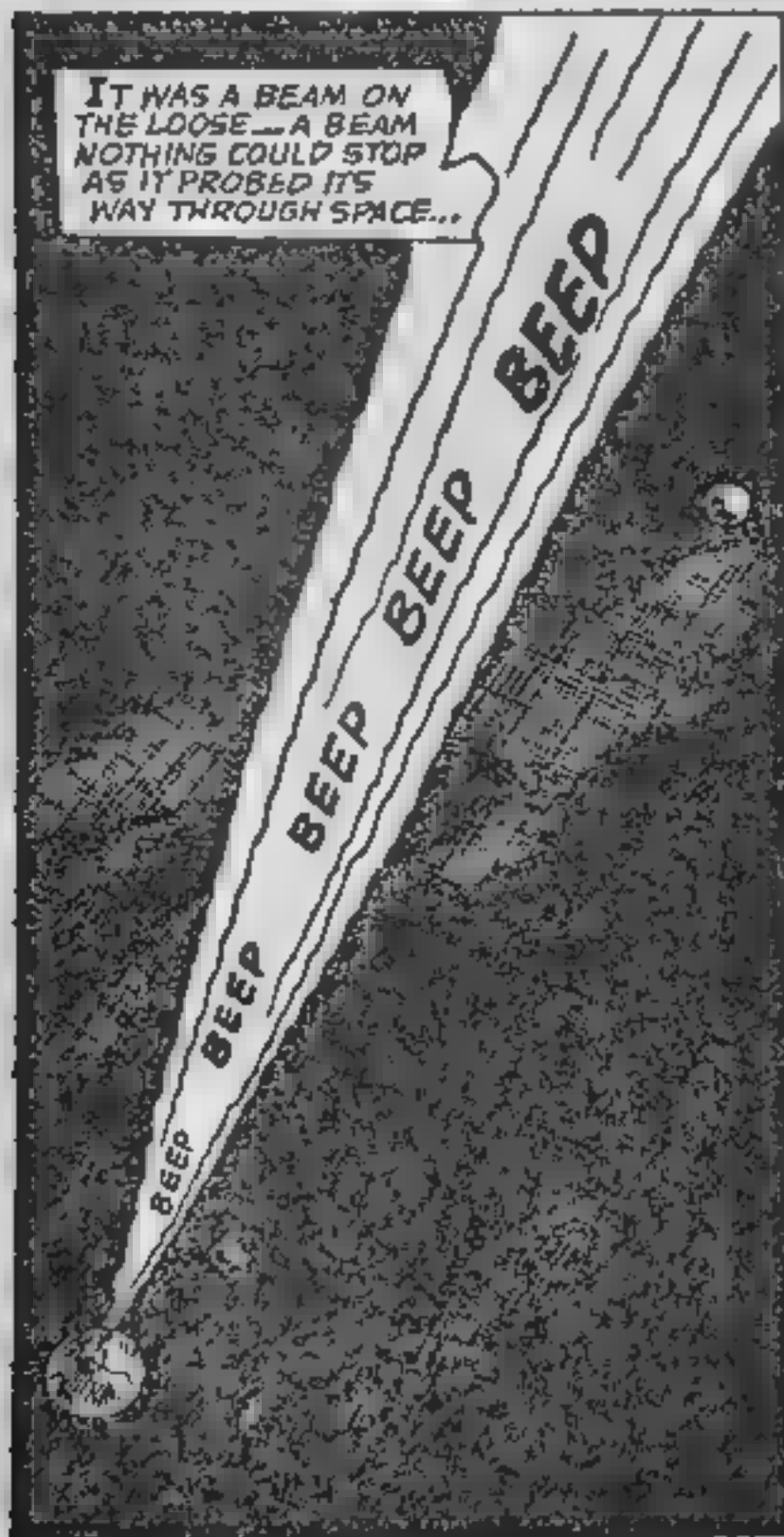




HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT IN TRIPPING HE HAD ACTIVATED A CONTROL IN THE INTERPLANETARY DOME. THAT EVEN NOW, AN ELECTRONIC BEAM WAS SNAKING ITS WAY UPWARD.



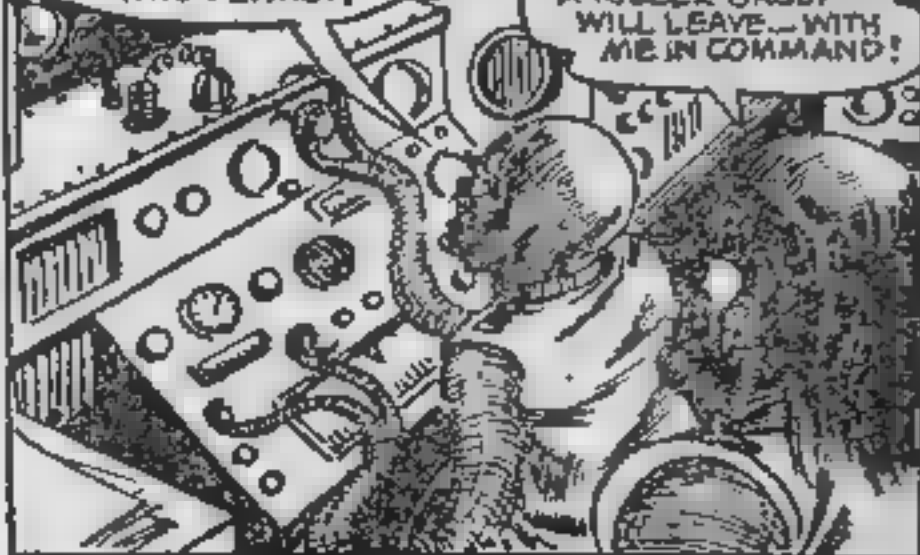
IT WAS A BEAM ON THE LOOSE -- A BEAM NOTHING COULD STOP AS IT PROBED ITS WAY THROUGH SPACE...



AND ON THE DISTANT PLANET ANDROS IV...

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, ENCEPHO... THE FREQUENCY OF THE SIGNAL IS THAT OF THE DOME IN WHICH OUR ENEMIES ESCAPED FROM THIS PLANET!

GET A FIX ON IT... DETERMINE THE EXACT LOCALITY IT'S COMING FROM! AS SOON AS THAT'S DONE, A KILLER GROUP WILL LEAVE... WITH ME IN COMMAND!



MEANWHILE, BACK ON EARTH, ROD HAD MADE GOOD HIS ESCAPE...

BETTER HANG ON... OR I'LL NEVER MAKE IT OUT!





SURE AM POOPED,
- KATA GEL IN ?
WHAT'S THAT
STRANGE
NOISE. ?

IT'S ONE OF THOSE
INTERPLANETARY DOMES
... COM NG DOWN OUT OF
SPACE! THAT MEANS IT'S GOT
TO BE ENCEPHO'S MEN!
THEY'VE FOUND OUT WHERE
LEONA'S PEOPLE ARE HIDDEN
AND THEY'RE COMING
IN FOR THE
ATTACK!

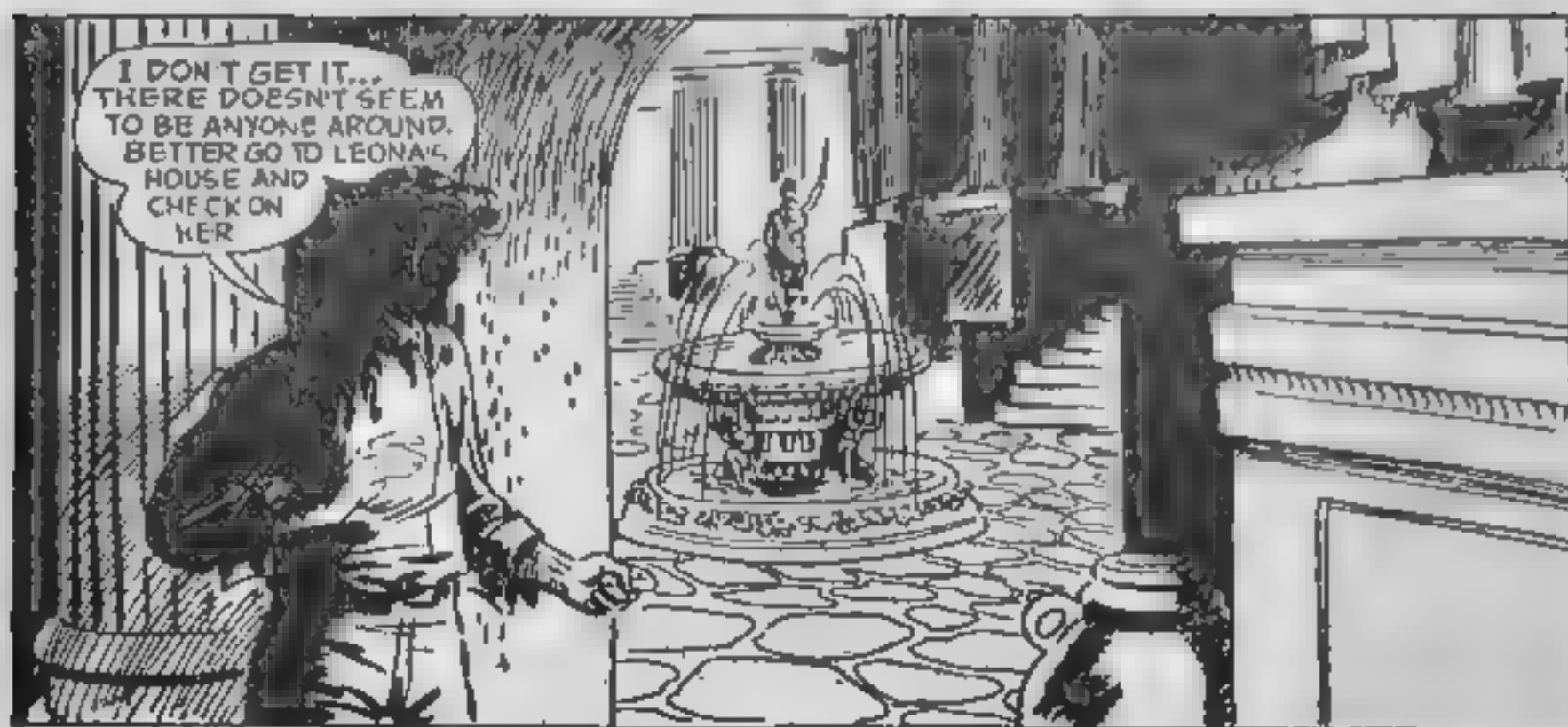


THAT MEANS SHE'S
IN DESPERATE DANGER!
I... I CAN'T LET IT
HAPPEN TO HER
... GOT TO GO
BACK
THERE...



HOW HE MADE IT BACK, HE
NEVER KNEW, IT WAS A NIGHT
MARE OF STAGGERING ON ON!
AND AT LAST...

MAYBE THEY
DIDN'T GET THERE
AFTER ALL EVERY-
THING LOOKS ALL
RIGHT... BUT I'LL
SOON SEE!





HIS DAZED EYES SWEEP
THROUGH THE WINDOW...
AND IN THE FLEET-INSTANT
YARD BEHIND THE
HALL...

AND AND THERE ARE
ALL OF THE REST OF THEM!
ENCE WHO USE THIS AS AN
EXECUTION AREA AND
NOT A ONE OF THEM
IS LEFT ALIVE!



THOSE MURDEROUS
INVADERS THEY'VE
COME... AND GONE...

CORRECTION,
PLEASE!



WE'RE JUST
LEAVING AND
NOW NOBODY
WILL KNOW THAT
WE'VE EVER
BEEN HERE!

MMMMMMMMMM!



STRUCK DOWN INSTANTANEOUSLY,
ROD MERRITT STILL HAD TIME
FOR ONE FINAL THOUGHT AS
HE DIED...

NOBODY WILL EVER KNOW
... WHAT HAPPENED HERE...
BUT I DON'T CARE. NOW LEONA
AND I... CAN BE TOGETHER
... FOR ALWAYS...

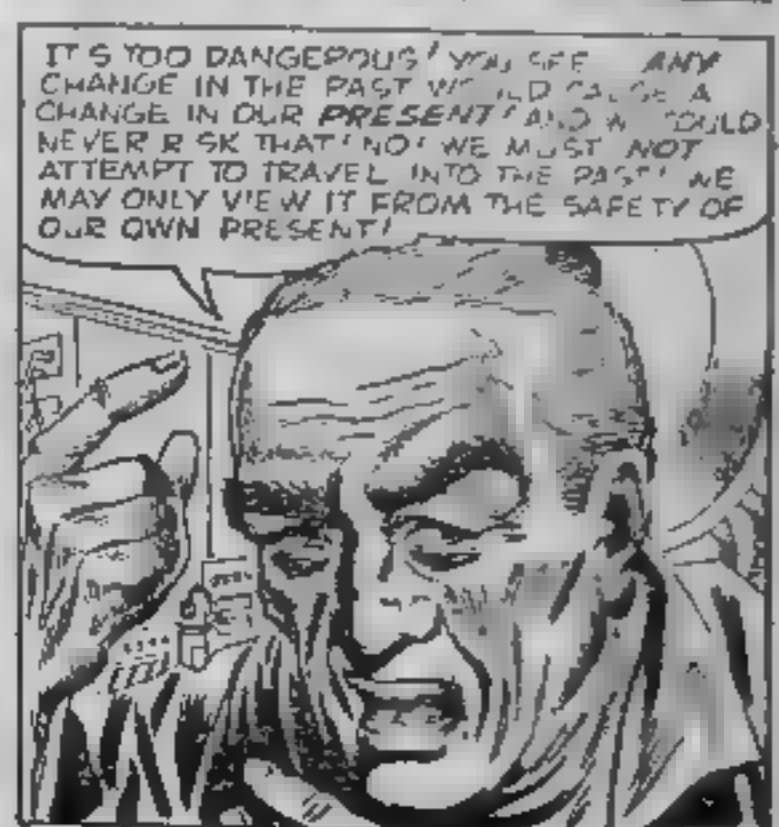
the
END

THE MAN WHO NEVER WAS!

TIME: A WARM SUMMER'S NIGHT IN THE YEAR 1992.
PLACE: THE SECLUDED LABORATORY OF PROFESSOR PHILIP ATHERTON, WORLD RENOWNED SCIENTIST!
SCENE: HOURS OF TEDIOUS SILENCE, SUDDENLY ENDED BY AN EXCITED CALL FOR YOU, ERIC BOHN..

YOU'VE OFTEN BEEN SUMMONED URGENTLY AND YOU'RE NOT SURPRISED-- AFTER ALL, YOU'RE PROFESSOR ATHERTON'S TRUSTED ASSISTANT..







...SAILED FROM ENGLAND FOR NEW YORK... DURING MUTINY, FATALLY INJURED ONE OF THE CREW... ATTACKED AND CAPTURED ARMENIAN VESSEL...



...IN NEW ENGLAND, HE SURRENDERED ON PROMISE OF PARDON... BUT WAS SENT WITH HIS CREW AS PRISONER TO LONDON, WHERE HE WAS TRIED AND CONVICTED FOR MURDER AND PIRACY! HE WAS HANGED IN 1701...



...HIS PLUNDER WAS NEVER RECOVERED... BELIEVED THAT HE HAD BURIED TREASURE IN PLACE ON EASTERN COAST...NEAR NEW YORK. APPROX. MAT. Y 40 MILES FROM

NOBODY'S EVER FOUND THE TREASURE! I CAN GO BACK INTO TIME AND SEE WHERE IT'S BURIED! IT'LL BE MINE FOR THE TAKING!



YOUR EYES GLISTENING WITH GREED, YOU RUSH BACK TO THE LABORATORY AND

I'M IN LUCK! ATHERTON RETIRED EARLY TONIGHT



YOU ADJUST THE CONTROLS...YOU "TRIGGER" THE STARTER...THEN YOU HEAR THE DULL MECHANICAL WHIRR AS YOU EXPERIENCE WHAT NO MAN HAS EVER KNOWN...THE PASSAGE FROM ONE SEGMENT OF WHAT WE CALL TIME... INTO ANOTHER!



IT WORKED!! HERE I AM!



I CALCULATED RIGHT! HERE COMES KIDD, NOW!



WITHIN MINUTES...

THEY'RE BURYING THE TREASURE!



SUDDENLY...

AVAST! WHAT'VE WE 'ERE? A BLOODY SPY?

WHA--





LUCKILY-- I BROUGHT THIS ALONG...

AEIEEE!



HE SHOT HENRY!

AFTER 'M, MEN!

GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!

DON'T LET 'IM GET AWAY!



HE RAN INTO THAT STRANGE LOOKING BOX!

THE FOOL! HE WON'T ESCAPE US NOW!

I'LL JUST SET THE CONTROLS FOR 1972 - THEN COME BACK HERE FOR THE TREASURE IN A WEEK OR SO!



GOOD 'EAVENS!

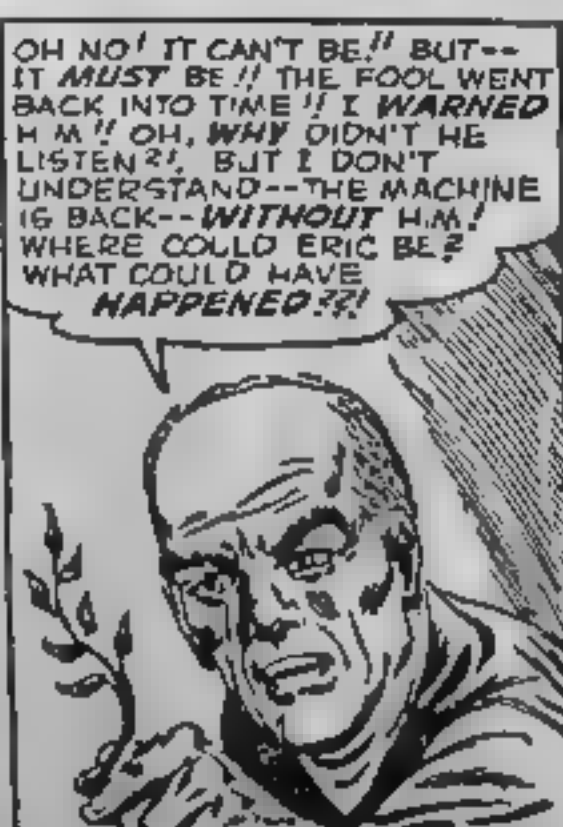
HE'S VANISHING!!



HOWEVER...

BOHN!-- ERIC!! WHERE IS THAT FELLOW? I'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE!

WHAT'S THIS? MY MACHINE'S BEEN USED!!!



OH NO! IT CAN'T BE!! BUT-- IT MUST BE!! THE FOOL WENT BACK INTO TIME!! I WARNED H.M!! OH, WHY DIDN'T HE LISTEN?!, BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND--THE MACHINE IS BACK-- WITHOUT H.M! WHERE COULD ERIC BE? WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED??!



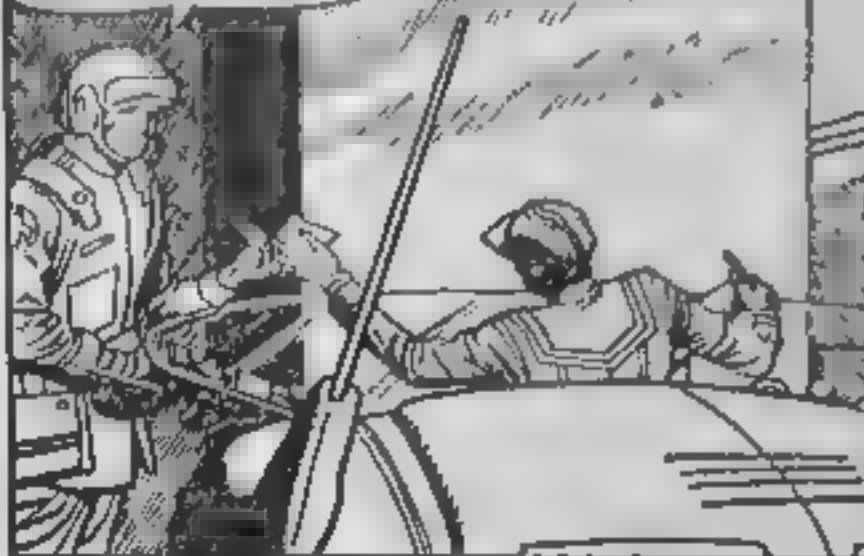
WHAT HAPPENED, PROFESSOR? WHY, THE ONE THING GREEDY ERIC NEVER FIGURED ON! THE PIRATE WHOM HE SHOT... THE YOUNG MAN WHO DIED WHILE ERIC BOHN RAN BACK INTO YOUR TIME MACHINE -- WAS ERIC'S OWN ANCESTOR -- WITHOUT WHOM THERE COULD BE NO ERIC BOHN!!!

THE SUN IS SHINING BRIGHTLY ON THIS WARM SPRING MORNING OF THE YEAR 2089, AS YOU DRIVE OUT OF NEW YORK CITY...



AT HIGH NOON, YOUR SOLAR-MOBILE WHEELS UP TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE "PROMETHEUS" ROCKET SHIP PLANT...

YOUR CREDENTIALS ARE IN ORDER! PASS THROUGH!

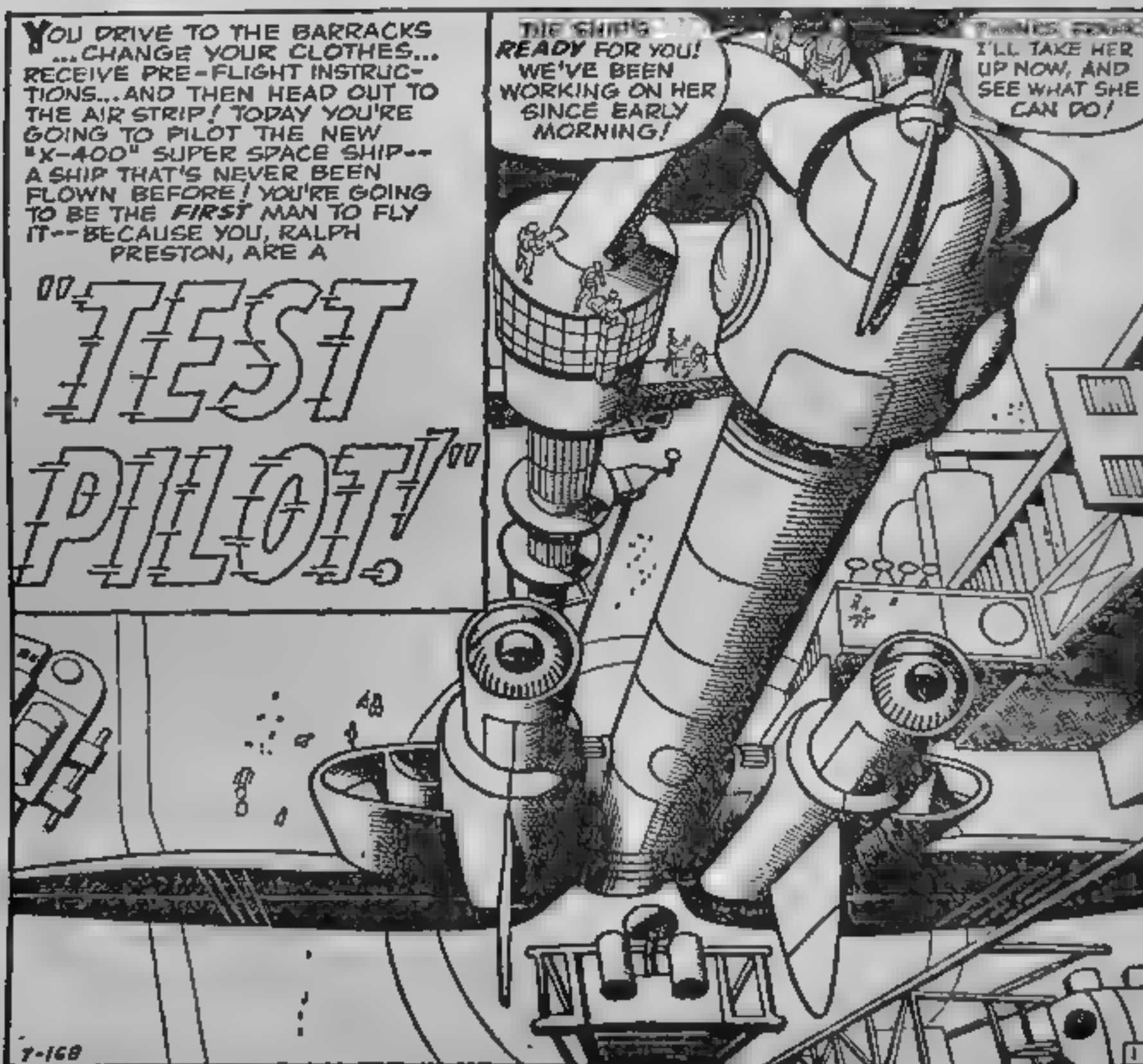


YOU DRIVE TO THE BARRACKS...CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES...RECEIVE PRE-FLIGHT INSTRUCTIONS...AND THEN HEAD OUT TO THE AIR STRIP! TODAY YOU'RE GOING TO PILOT THE NEW "X-400" SUPER SPACE SHIP-- A SHIP THAT'S NEVER BEEN FLOWN BEFORE! YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE *FIRST* MAN TO FLY IT-- BECAUSE YOU, RALPH PRESTON, ARE A

"TEST PILOT!"

THE SHIP'S READY FOR YOU! WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON HER SINCE EARLY MORNING!

THANKS, FRED! I'LL TAKE HER UP NOW, AND SEE WHAT SHE CAN DO!



YOU CLIMB INTO THE SHIP..

COME ON! THEY'LL
BUILD THESE THINGS
FOR COMFORT!

YOU EXAMINE THE LABYRINTHINE INSTRUMENT
PANEL...

EVERYTHING
SEEMS TO
CHECK OUT
OKAY!

MOMENTS LATER, WITH A TREMENDOUS
SURGE OF HARNESSSED THERMONUCLEAR
POWER, THE ROCKET SHIP BLASTS OFF!

SHE TAKES
OFF
PRETTY
WELL...

WITHIN THREE HOURS YOU'RE PAST YOUR
SOLAR SYSTEM AND SEVEN HOURS LATER,
YOU'VE GONE BEYOND YOUR STAR SYSTEM...
THEN SUDDENLY--

WHA-- A METEOR
SHOWER!! IT'S
COMING THIS
WAY!!

GOTTA FORCE THE HYPERSPATIAL
DIRECTIONAL LEVER--

WHEW-- DID IT!
ANY CLOSER, AND I
WOULDN'T HAVE A
CHANCE TO
SURVIVE!

THE SHIP'S AGAIN FLYING SMOOTHLY--
PROCEEDING TO THE LIMITS OF THE MILKY
WAY! THEN, SLOWLY, ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLY
--YOU START TO GET TIRED -- DROWSY .

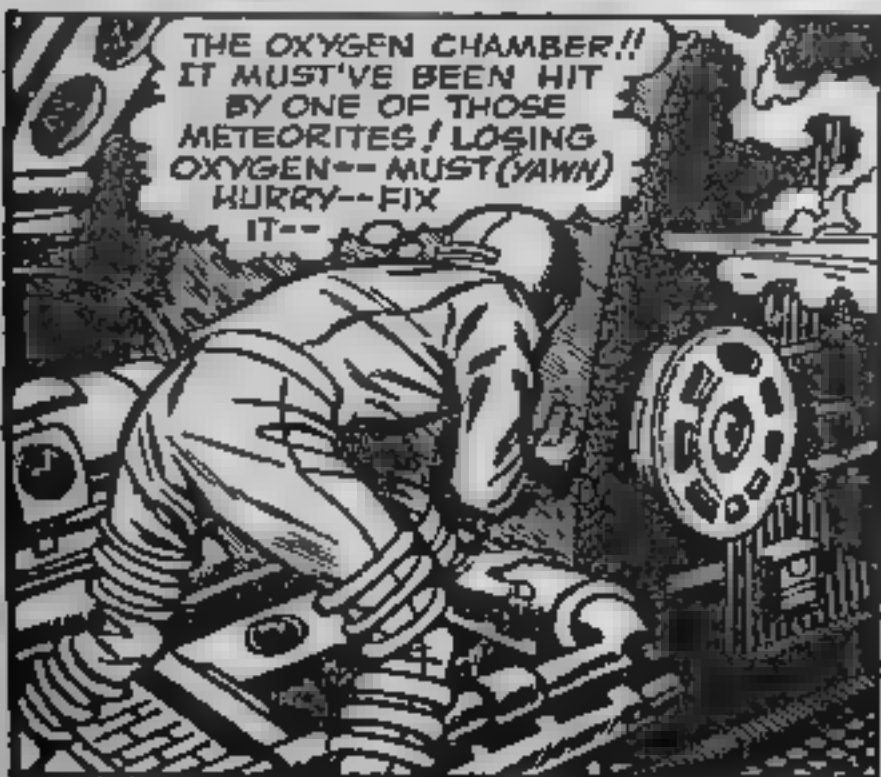
I FEEL KINDA
(YAWN) SLEEPY..



BUT THERE'S NO REASON
(YAWN) FOR THAT UNLESS
--UNLESS!!



THE OXYGEN CHAMBER!!
IT MUST'VE BEEN HIT
BY ONE OF THOSE
METEORITES! LOSING
OXYGEN-- MUST (YAWN)
HURRY-- FIX
IT--

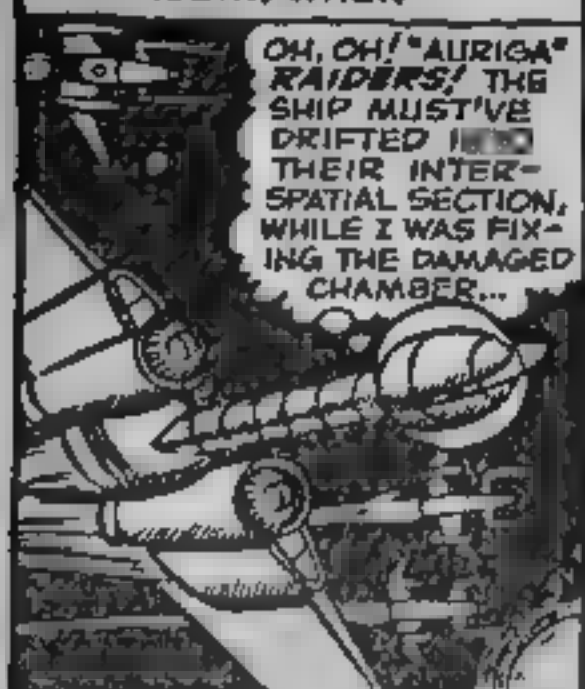


IT TAKES EVERY BIT OF YOUR EBBING
STRENGTH, BUT YOU FINALLY REACH THE
CHAMBER AND REPAIR THE DAMAGED
SECTION...



THIS POLYMERIZED
NEOPRENE OUGHT TO
STOP THE AIR LEAK!

BUT YOU NO SOONER GET
BACK TO THE PILOT CONTROL
ROOM, WHEN--



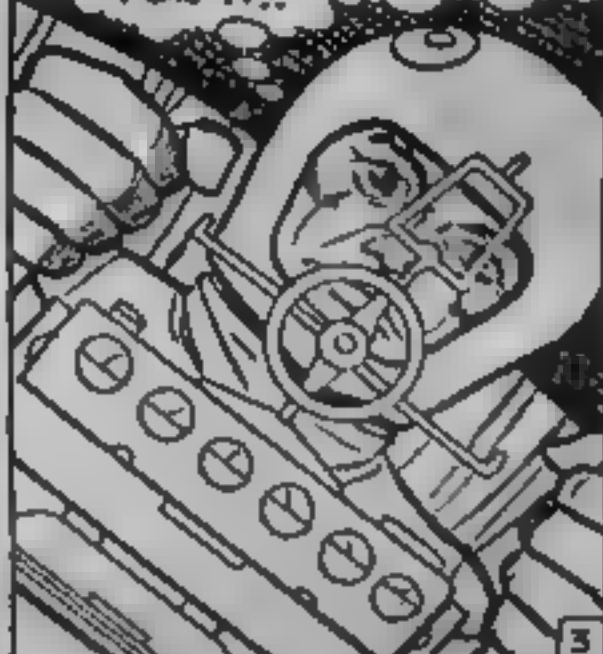
OH, OH! "AURIGA"
RAIDERS! THE
SHIP MUST'VE
DRIFTED INTO
THEIR INTER-
SPATIAL SECTION,
WHILE I WAS FIX-
ING THE DAMAGED
CHAMBER...

THEY COME AT YOU--
THEIR AUTOGAMMA
CANNONS FIRING FULL
STRENGTH!!

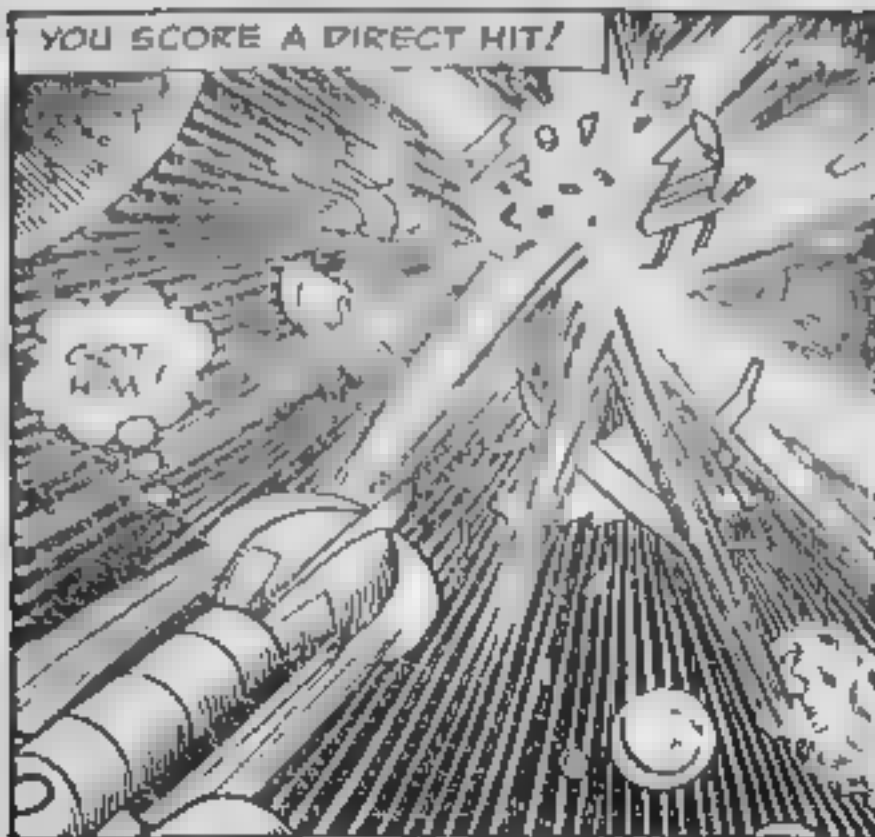


THERE'S
TOO MANY TO FIGHT--
I'LL TRY TO OUT-
MANEUVER THEM!!

THERE'S ONE THAT I CAN'T
AVOID TANGLING WITH!
OKAY, BROTHER, YOU ASKED
FOR IT!!



YOU SCORE A DIRECT HIT!



BUT AS YOU CONTINUE TO OUTMANEUVER THE RAIDER, YOU TURN A LITTLE TOO SHARPLY AND--

VTTYH KIKIKKE

DEGHHG T C V

(CAN HE HEAR)

LET HIM HEAR

HE CAN HEAR

IN THAT

"SPACE WARP"

MAMAMAMAM

WHYOK HEARING A SHOUT

OUT? (HE CAN HEAR)

HE CAN HEAR

HE CAN HEAR

NEVER HEAR

THAT

THAT

THAT



YOUR SHIP TOSSES ERRATICALLY-- DANGEROUSLY!! NO ONE WOULD BE ABLE TO PILOT FREE OF THIS SPACE WARP--



NO ONE, THAT IS, UNLESS HE HAD A ONE-IN-A-THOUSAND CHANCE OF BEING AS SKILLFUL AS A TEST PILOT!



BOY--WHAT A RELIEF TO BE OUTTA THAT!! LUCKY THE OLD ELECTRO-CHARGER TRICK WORKED!

YOU HEAD BACK FOR HOME... AND IT IS SOME TIME LATER THAT YOU APPROACH THE FAMILIAR "PROMETHEUS" AIR STRIP... YOU BRING THE X-400 IN, SMOOTHLY...



YOU'RE ONCE AGAIN ON YOUR OWN NATIVE EARTH... YOU NOW PERFORM THE LAST PHASE OF YOUR JOB--YOU MAKE OUT YOUR **REPORT!**

HOW DID IT GO, RALPH?

OH, IT WAS A PRETTY ROUTINE FLIGHT...



When the HURRICANE HIT

MYSTERIES OF
the UNKNOWN

THE NEEDLE IS JUMPING
AGAIN... VIOLENTLY... AND
HE'S RAVING! WHAT'S GOING
ON IN HIS MIND?



TORNADOES HAVE OFTEN LEFT A TRAIL OF BIZARRE EVENTS
BEHIND THEM IN THEIR DESTRUCTIVE PATH! FURIOUS WINDS
HAVE DRIVEN NEEDLES THROUGH TELEPHONE POLES, HAVE
PICKED UP HOUSES AND AUTOMOBILES TO DEPOSIT
THEM INTACT ELSEWHERE! BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO JOHN
COLBY WAS MORE THAN BIZARRE! IT PASSED
BEYOND EXPLICABLE EVENTS—TO BECOME PART
OF THE SUPERNATURAL!

OKLAHOMA, 1961...

THE TORNADO IS NOW
RIPPING ACROSS OKLAHOMA
...ITS CENTER IS EXPECTED TO
PASS ABOUT 75 MILES
NORTHEAST OF
TULSA!

GOOD HEAVENS,
THAT'S EXACTLY
WHERE WE
ARE!



RESIDENTS ARE ADVISED
TO TAKE TO THEIR STORM
CELLARS!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE
CROCKERY AND SHUTTERS,
JACK—YOU COLLECT THE
LOOSE FURNITURE IN THE
GARDEN!





AS THE SHRIEKING FURY OF THE TORNADO STRUCK IN FULL FORCE, JOHN COLBY'S MIND TURNED BACK, BACK ACROSS THE YEARS--

15 YEARS AGO--IF ONLY I'D LISTENED TO HER! SHE TOLD ME NOT TO DRIVE THE CAR THAT DAY--



YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO THE OFFICE TODAY, DARLING! THE ROADS ARE SO ICY!



STOP WORRYING, HONEY--I'VE NEVER EVEN SCRATCHED A FENDER!

THEY SAID I WAS LUCKY TO BE ALIVE--THAT I'D NEVER WALK WITHOUT CRUTCHES AGAIN--



JACK, HONEY --LISTEN! I CAN'T HEAR THE WIND ANY MORE--THE STORM IS OVER!



ONE HOUR LATER THE STORM HIT HARDER IN THE CELLAR, THEY COULD HEAR THE HOWL OF THE RISING WIND

I DO HOPE THAT STATUS OF MY, DOESN'T GET KNICKED OVER IT'S SUCH A LOVELY THING!

IT WAS TOO HEAVY TO MOVE TO SAFETY TOOK A WEAKLING LIKE ME TO BUDGE!

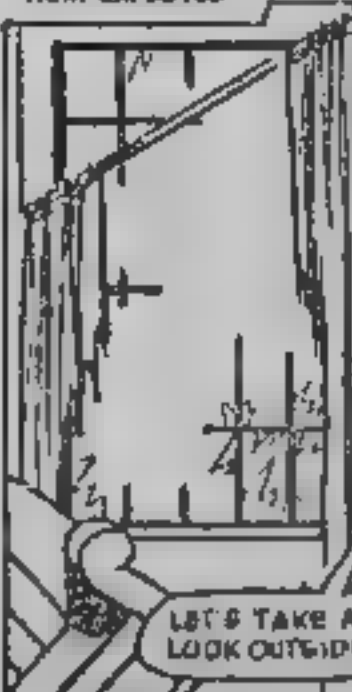


ICE - STEEP GRADES - A SUDDEN SNOW FLURRY - ALL CONTRIBUTED TO THE GRIM CATASTROPHE -



I--I'M SKIDDING! THE CAR'S OUT OF CONTROL!

THE DAMAGE WAS WORSE THAN EXPECTED--



AT LEAST THE HOUSE IS STILL STANDING BUT LOOK AT THE SHAMBLES! I REMEMBER THOSE STORM WINDOWS WOULDN'T HOLD!



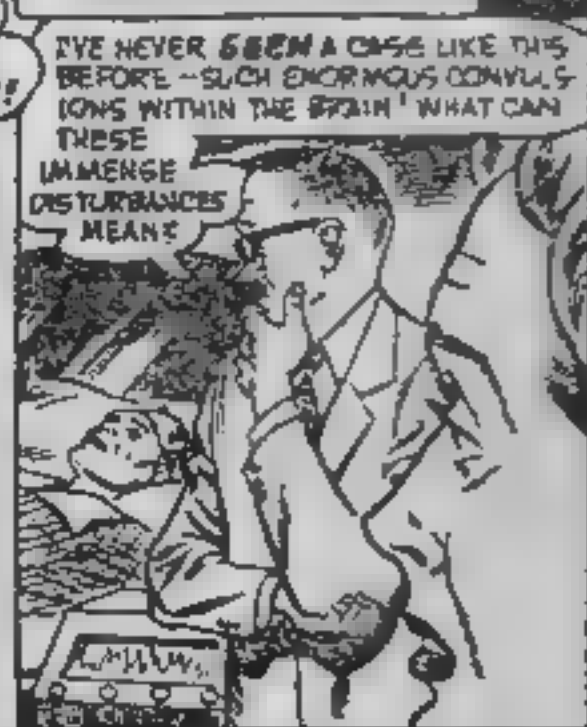
LET'S TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE!



HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS FOR A SHORT PERIOD, THEN BEGAN TO BABLE SEEMING NONSENSE! THE DOCTOR WAS BAFFLED—



WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SPECIALIST AN ENCEPHALOGRAPH—A MACHINE TO MEASURE BRAIN WAVES—WAS ATTACHED TO COLBY'S HEAD



COLBY'S REELING MIND HAD STUMBLER BACK TO HIS YOUTH—TO THE MOMENTS OF HIS GREATEST ATHLETIC FEATS! HE SAW HIMSELF AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES, EXACTLY AS IT HAPPENED—BUT WITH ONE STRIKING DIFFERENCE—



EVERYTHING TOOK PLACE AS HE KNEW IT WOULD—TO THE SLIGHTEST DETAIL! LATER, WATCHING A RACE—



WITH NO REALIZATION THAT HE WAS RELIVING A PAST EXPERIENCE, COLBY WAS BLESSED WITH EERIE SENSATIONS...

HE'S FALLING!

I—I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! IT'S LIKE BEING CLAIR-VISANT!



THE NEEDLE OF THE ENCEPHALOGRAPH SUDDENLY CALMED DOWN AND REMAINED STEADY FOR AN HOUR...

IS HE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT, DOCTOR?

TOO EARLY TO SAY! FORTUNATELY HE'S BEEN ASLEEP FOR—ON ON THE GRAPH IS STARTING TO RUN WILD AGAIN! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING!



ONCE MORE, COLBY'S BRAIN HAD STARTED INTO FRENZIED ACTIVITY! THE PAST BURST FORWARDED AGAIN...



YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO THE OFFICE TODAY, DARLING! THE ROADS ARE SO Icy!

STOP WORRYING, HONEY—I'VE NEVER EVEN SCRATCHED A FENDER!

BUT HE DIDN'T TAKE THE HINCL! AS AN OVERPOWERING SENSE OF DREAD SWEPT OVER HIM—

WELL...MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT! NO SENSE TEMPTING FATE—I'LL CALL THE OFFICE AND SAY I WON'T BE IN!



LATER, WHEN THE SNOW BEGAN TO FALL THICKLY—



I'M SO GLAD YOU DECIDED TO BE REASONABLE! I WOULD HAVE WORRIED SO!

FUNNY—WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO GET INTO THE CAR, I GOT A FUNNY FEELING IN MY BONES...AS IF SOME AWFUL CATASTROPHE WERE AWAITING ME ON THE ROAD!



THE WAVES ARE QUIET AGAIN—HE'S BACK IN HIS COMA! MRS. COLBY, I'LL HAVE TO GET SOME SLEEP MYSELF! KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE DIAL—IF IT STARTS JUMPING AGAIN, CALL ME IMMEDIATELY!

I CERTAINLY WILL!

AS THE TENSE MOMENT DRAINED ON—



POOR DARLING—IF THERE WERE ONLY SOMETHING WE COULD DO! THAT COULD HAVE CAUSED ALL THIS—HE WAS IN FINE HEALTH THIS MORNING! GOOD HEAVENS THE GRAPH HAS STARTED TO RUN WILD!

THE SPECIALIST WAS STUNNED BY THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT.

IT'S INCREDIBLE! NO BRAIN HAS EVER BEEN SUBJECT TO SUCH VIOLENT ACTIVITY! IF THERE WERE ONLY SOME WAY OF KNOWING WHAT'S PASSING THROUGH HIS MIND! AS IS I'M HELPLESS!

CAN'T YOU DO ANY-THINGS?

WHAT WAS GOING ON IN COLBY'S MIND? EVERYTHING WAS NEW! HE FOUND HIMSELF LIVING ON THE FARM IN A STRANGE PLACE AND NO LONGER WAS THIS AN EXPERIENCE FROM THE PAST...

WH-WHERE AM I? HOW'D I GET HERE? - GREAT GODS ARE THERE THOSE ANIMALS?

ALL AT ONCE THE PICTURE BEFORE HIS EYES BECAME CLEAR...THE FOCUS SHARP...

WHAT SORT OF CREATURE IS THAT?

HE CAME OUT OF NOWHERE! THIS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL IMMEDIATELY!

CERTAIN THAT HE'D GONE INSANE, COLBY LEAPED TO HIS FEET IN ALARM, WHILE THE ANIMALS BACKED OFF QUICKLY, AS IF AFRAID THEMSELVES...

YOU...YOU'D BETTER NOT RESIST! COME ALONG WITH US... QUIETLY!

NO... NO! I'VE LOST MY MIND!

PANIC-STRIKEN, HE BOLTED...

GOT TO...GET AWAY...FROM THEM! IS THIS ALL--A NIGHTMARE? RED GRASS--PURPLE TREES--STRANGE SHAPES--TALKING ANIMALS...

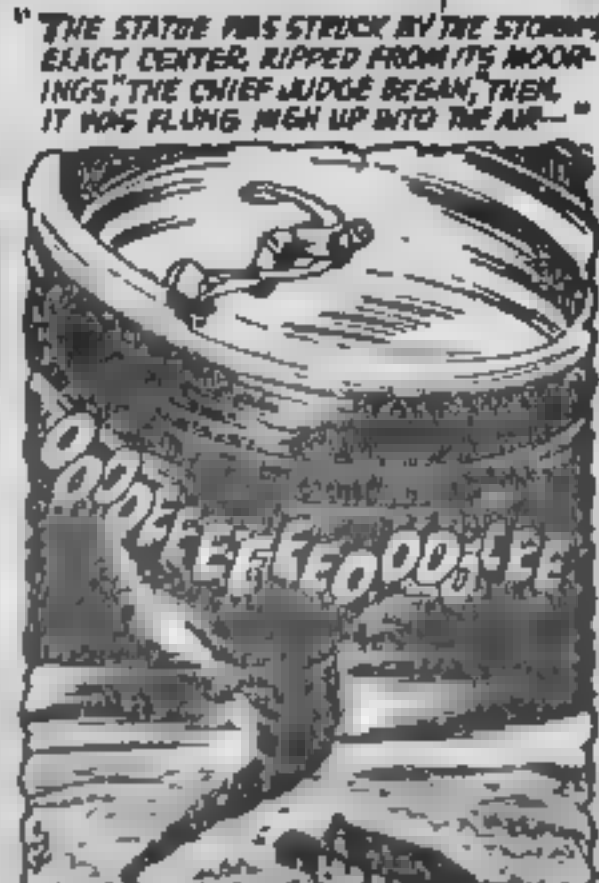
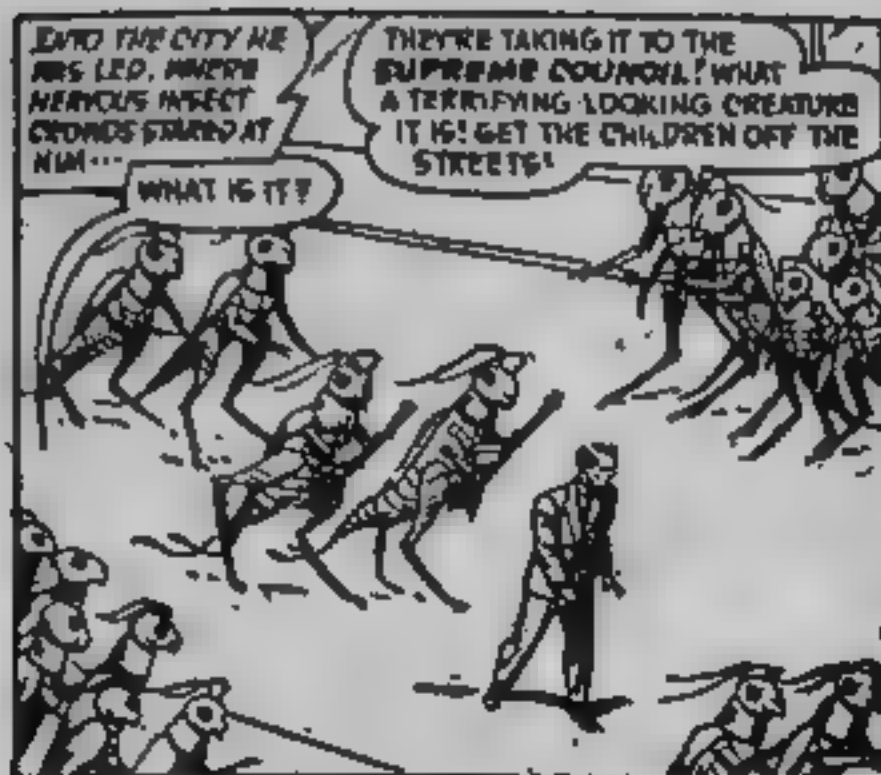
WHERE HE WAS RUNNING, HE DIDN'T KNOW--OR CARE! HE WASN'T EVEN AWARE THAT HE WAS RUNNING, THAT SOMEBODY HE WAS NO LONGER A CRIPPLE! ATOP A HIGH HILL, HE SUDDENLY PULLED UP SHORT--

A CITY! A FUTURISTIC CITY! I MUST BE--IMAGINING ALL THIS!

THERE HE IS!

DON'T MOVE! COME ALONG WITH US--AND NO TRICKS! THESE WEAPONS ARE QUITE ACCURATE!

I SOME LOST MY MIND? AND YET I HAD NO IDEA MADNESS COULD FEEL SO REAL!





THE TIME CURVE?
I'M AFRAID I DON'T
QUITE FOLLOW!

THE TIME CURVE IS THE ACTUAL
RECORD OF TIME ITSELF--A BROAD,
CONTINUOUS BAND WHICH EXTENDS
FROM REMOTE PAST TO DISTANT
FUTURE--CAUGHT WITHIN IT THE
STATUE WAS FLUNG BACK IN
TIME--AN EXTREMELY RARE
ACCIDENT! AND NOW, JOHN COLBY,
SINCE THE STATUE REPRESENTS
ALL THAT
YOU HOLD DEAR
IN LIFE--



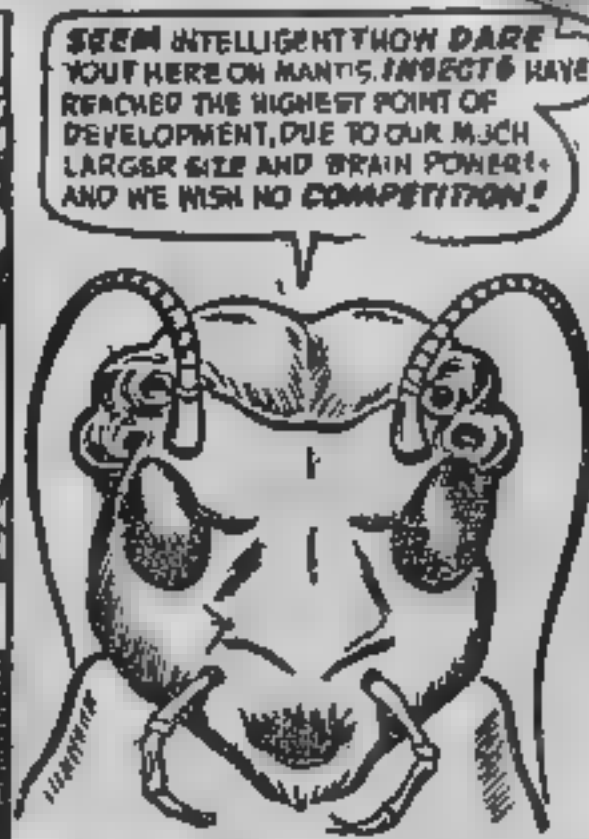
SINCE YOU HAD IDENTIFIED YOURSELF WITH IT FOR SO LONG, A
MYSTIC BOND HAD FORMED BETWEEN YOU! THEREFORE THE ESSENCE
OF YOUR BEING, WAS PULLED BACK INTO THE PAST
AND YOU RELIVED CERTAIN OF YOUR LIFETIME'S "MAY I DISCHARGE"
A BOND WITH THE TIME CURVE THE STATUE RETURNED TO
THE PRESENT!



IN OUTER SPACE IT FLASHED ALONG
AT FANTASTIC SPEEDS, UNTIL IT
FINALLY CAME TO REST HERE--
ON OUR PLANET MARS! AND
BECAUSE OF THE BOND BETWEEN
YOU AND THE STATUE--

YOU ALLOWED
IT HERE!

BUT WHAT ARE ALL OF
YOU? YOU'RE NOT
MEN--AND YET YOU
SEEM INTELLIGENT!



SEEM INTELLIGENT! HOW DARE
YOU HERE ON MARS! INSECTS HAVE
REACHED THE HIGHEST POINT OF
DEVELOPMENT, DUE TO OUR MUCH
LARGER SIZE AND BRAIN POWER!
AND WE WISH NO COMPETITION!



YOUR ARRIVAL HERE HAS CAUSED A
NATIONAL CRISIS-- BECAUSE MOST OF
OUR PEOPLE FEAR YOUR APPEARANCE!
THEREFORE, I'M SENDING YOU AND
YOUR DREADFUL STATUE BACK WHERE
YOU CAME FROM!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HOW ARE YOU GOING
TO--?



COLBY NEVER FINISHED
HIS SENTENCE! AT THE
FLICK OF THE SWITCH,
EVERYTHING DISINTE-
GRATED BEFORE HIS
EYES! IN WHAT SEEMED
THE NEXT INSTANT--

I'M IN--OUTER
SPACE--STREAKING
TOWARD THE
EARTH!



STRANGE, THE NEEDLE HAS
SUDDENLY COME TO REST!
THE BRAIN WAVES ARE
ABSOLUTELY NORMAL
NOW! WHAT COULD HAVE
HAPPENED?

DOCTOR?
HE'S
OPENING
HIS EYES!

COLBY'S EYES WERE CLEAR, HIS REASONING POWERS PERFECTLY NORMAL—

WHAT HAPPENED TO ME? WHY AM I IN BED?

I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, MR. COLBY! YOU HAD SOME STRANGE FORM OF BRAIN SEIZURE! TELL ME DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING OF YOUR COMA?

WHEN HE FINISHED RECOUNTING HIS FANTASTIC ILLUSSIONS—

SOMEHOW, IT ALL APPEARED AMAZINGLY REAL! CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT—

THE MIND'S A STRANGE THING! OPEN THE BLINDS, MRS. COLBY—LET THE SUNLIGHT COME IN!

DAWN HAD COME UP BRIGHT AND CLEAR! AS THE SUN'S RAYS FLOODED THE ROOM—

THE STATUE—IT'S BACK ON THE PEDESTAL! THAT'S—IMPOSSIBLE!

UNBELIEVABLE!

WHAT IS THIS—A JOKE? LET ME HAVE A LOOK AT THAT!

IT IS THERE! BUT NOW CAN THAT BE UNLESS—

JACK! YOU'VE STANDING WITHOUT YOUR CRUTCHES!

ONCE THEN DID EVERYONE REALIZE THAT COLBY HAD LEAPED OUT OF BED, HAD CRUISED TO THE WINDOW, WAS STANDING AND STRONG! THE INCREDULOUS DOCTOR MADE A SWIFT ELIMINATION—

PERFECT—YOUR LEG IS PERFECT! AS IF—AS IF—AS IF YOU'D NEVER BEEN IN A CRUSHING ACCIDENT! BUT THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE!

NO—NOT IMPOSSIBLE! DON'T YOU SEE? MY EXPERIENCES WERE REAL! WHEN I WENT BACK INTO THE PAST, I CHANGED IT!

DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT I SAID? I NEVER DROVE ALONG THE ICEY ROAD—IT NEVER HAPPENED—I NEVER HAD THAT ACCIDENT! THEREFORE, I NEVER BECAME A CRIPPLE!

IT—CAN'T BE TRUE—AND YET—YOU'RE LYING PROOF IT IS TRUE!

THE END!

PARKS LIVED ONE LIFE IN THIS WORLD AND ANOTHER IN THE WORLD OF DREAMS! AND HE THOUGHT THAT HE KNEW WHICH ONE WAS THE REALITY! BUT HE WAS NOT FOR A...

RUDE AWAKENING!



THEY'RE GONE! IT WAS JUST A DREAM! I KNEW IT EVEN IN MY SLEEP! I'M IN MY OWN BED, IN MY OWN APARTMENT!



SUDDENLY, PARKS WAS AWAKE! RELIEF FLOODED OVER HIM! BUT HE WAS STILL TERRIFIED...

BUT IT WAS SO REAL! LIKE AN OMEN! AS IF I WERE BEING WARNED THAT DAVIS IS GOING TO STUMBLE ONTO THE TRUTH!



IF HE DOES, I'LL GO TO PRISON FOR TEN YEARS! UNLESS I GIVE MYSELF UP! IF I CONFESSED, I MIGHT GET A LIGHT SENTENCE...



NOT! I'M TALKING NONSENSE! THE DREAM WAS JUST A DREAM! IT DON'T MEAN ANYTHING! TO BE A FOOL TO CONFESS!



PARKS QUAKED AND TRIED TO THINK LOGICALLY! BUT THE FEAR HAD BEEN PLANTED IN HIM! IT WAS ALWAYS THERE FROM THEN ON...

DAVIS! GOING OVER THE BOOKS! HE COULD BE LOOKING OVER THOSE FALSE ENTRIES I MADE!



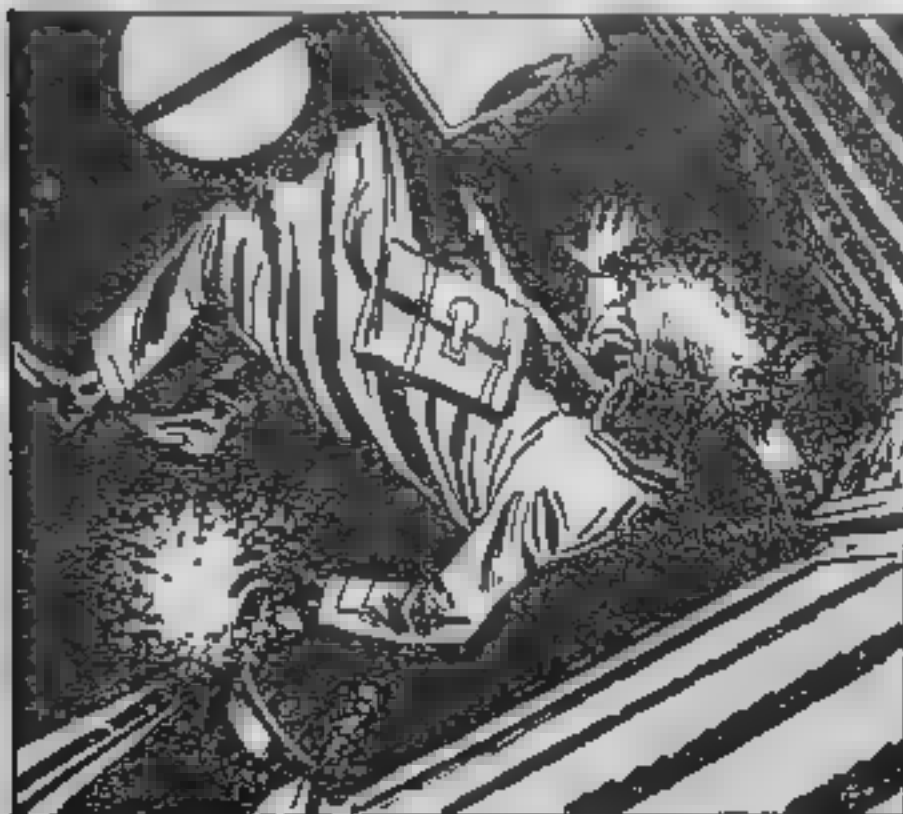
DAY BY DAY PARKS' APPREHENSION GREW!

DAVIS... WITH A POLICEMAN! JUST LIKE IN MY DREAM! AND THEY'RE LOOKING RIGHT AT ME!



NO! THEY'VE SEPARATED! THEY WEREN'T LOOKING AT ME!

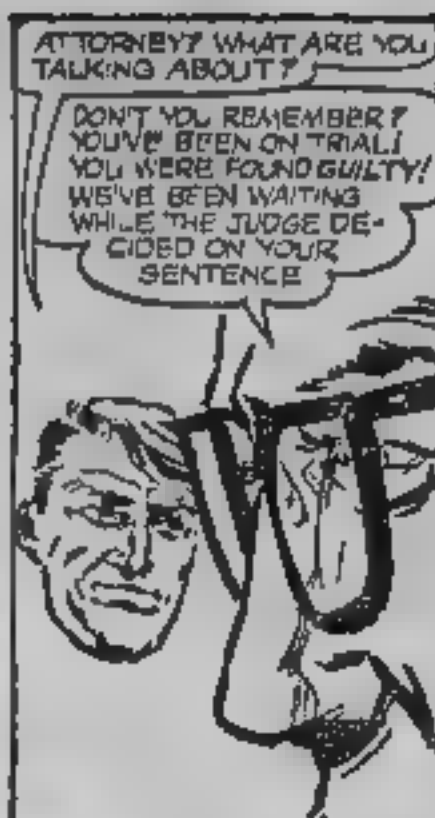






WHAT, WHO ARE YOU? WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

ARE YOU JOHNS? THIS IS THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND I'M MABON, YOUR ATTORNEY! YOU FELL ASLEEP!



ATTORNEY? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

DON'T YOU REMEMBER? YOU'VE BEEN ON TRIAL! YOU WERE FOUND GUILTY! WE'VE BEEN WAITING WHILE THE JUDGE DECIDED ON YOUR SENTENCE



PARKS CAPED! BUT THEN IT ALL CAME FLOWING BACK...

THE JUDGE JUST SENT FOR US! HE'S READY!

THE JUDGE! YES! I REMEMBER THE TRIAL NOW! THIS IS REAL! I FELL ASLEEP AND I HAD A DREAM! I EVEN HAD A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM!



I'M ONLY SORRY THE DREAM WASN'T THE REALITY! IF IT WAS I WOULDN'T BE HERE! I'D NEVER HAVE BEEN CAUGHT! NOT WITH DAVIS GONE.



IF ONLY IT HAD BEEN REAL! I'D HAVE A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT I WAS SAFE!

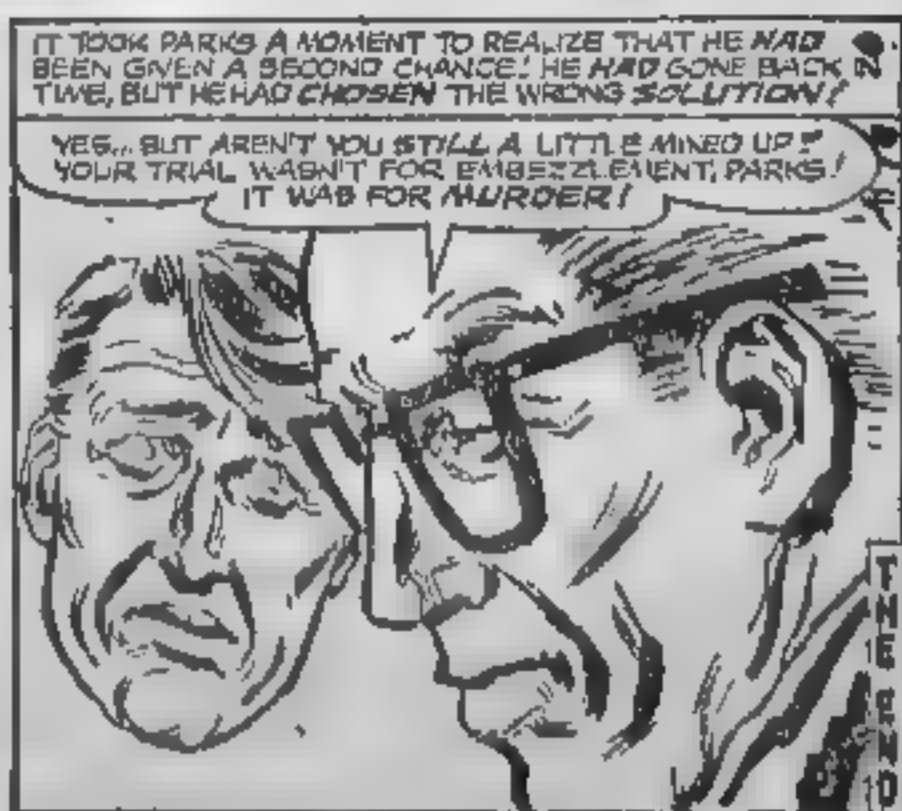
SECOND CHANCE? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!



NO PARKS' ATTORNEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND! HOW COULD HE? BUT THEN PARKS DIDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND EITHER! NOT AT FIRST!

BUT NEVER MIND THAT! WE'RE DUE IN COURT! JUST PRAY THAT THE JUDGE IS LENIENT!

I'LL PROBABLY GET THE WAIT! TEN YEARS! THAT'S THE PENALTY FOR EMBEZZLEMENT, ISN'T IT?



IT TOOK PARKS A MOMENT TO REALIZE THAT HE HAD BEEN GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE! HE HAD GONE BACK IN TIME, BUT HE HAD CHOSEN THE WRONG SOLUTION!

YES... BUT AREN'T YOU STILL A LITTLE MINED UP? YOUR TRIAL WASN'T FOR EMBEZZLEMENT, PARKS! IT WAS FOR MURDER!

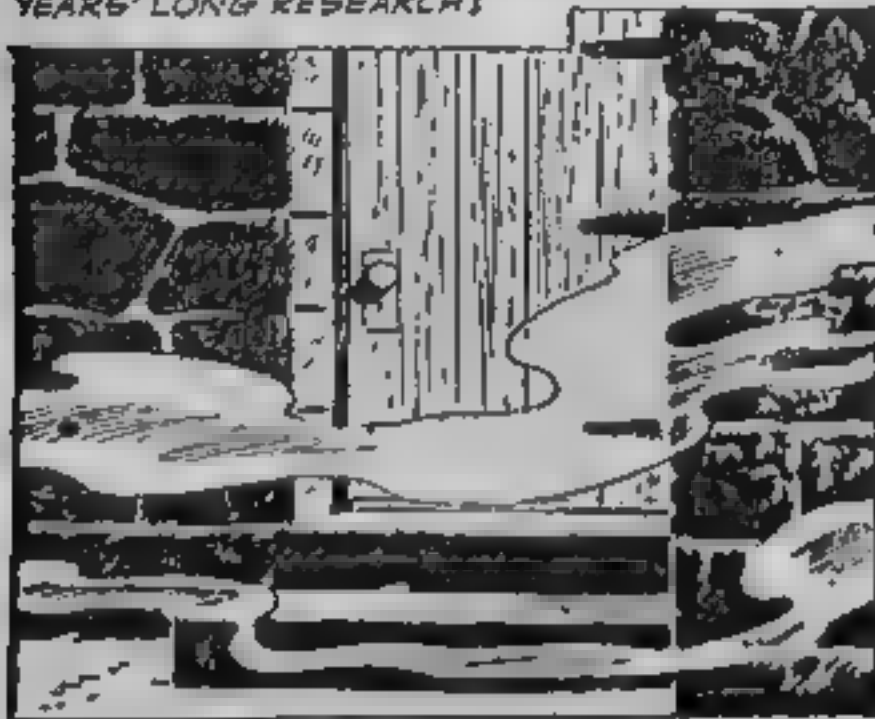
HATE, LIKE LOVE, IS AN EMOTION THAT TAKES TIME TO DEVELOP TO ITS FULL EFFECT. YEARS AGO A CHAIN OF CIRCUMSTANCES STARTED TO UNFOLD ON AN EVIL PATH THAT NOW BRINGS MERMEN TO A LIFE-DEFEATING BATTLE ON

LOBSTER ISLAND



IT IS AN EXPERIMENT AS MYSTERIOUS AS THE BRAIN THAT HAS SPAWNED IT....

BEHIND THIS DOOR, A SCIENTIST SHUNNED BY SOCIETY IS NEARING THE COMPLETION OF A YEARS' LONG RESEARCH!



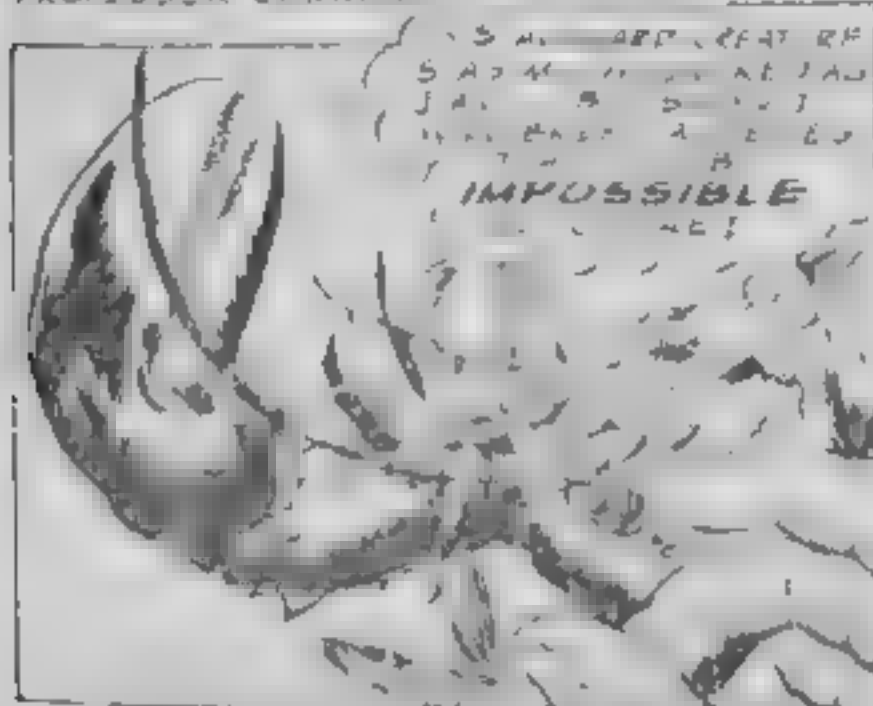
THE STORY HAD BEGUN LONG AGO... AT THE
END OF AN ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER...



THE NETTLE QUIETLY ARRANGED A GENEROUS PENSION, AND EASED HIM OFF THE STAFF...



AND FROM THE OFFICE A NEW OBSESSION CRUELLED THE LUXURY OF PROFESSOR JARRARD...



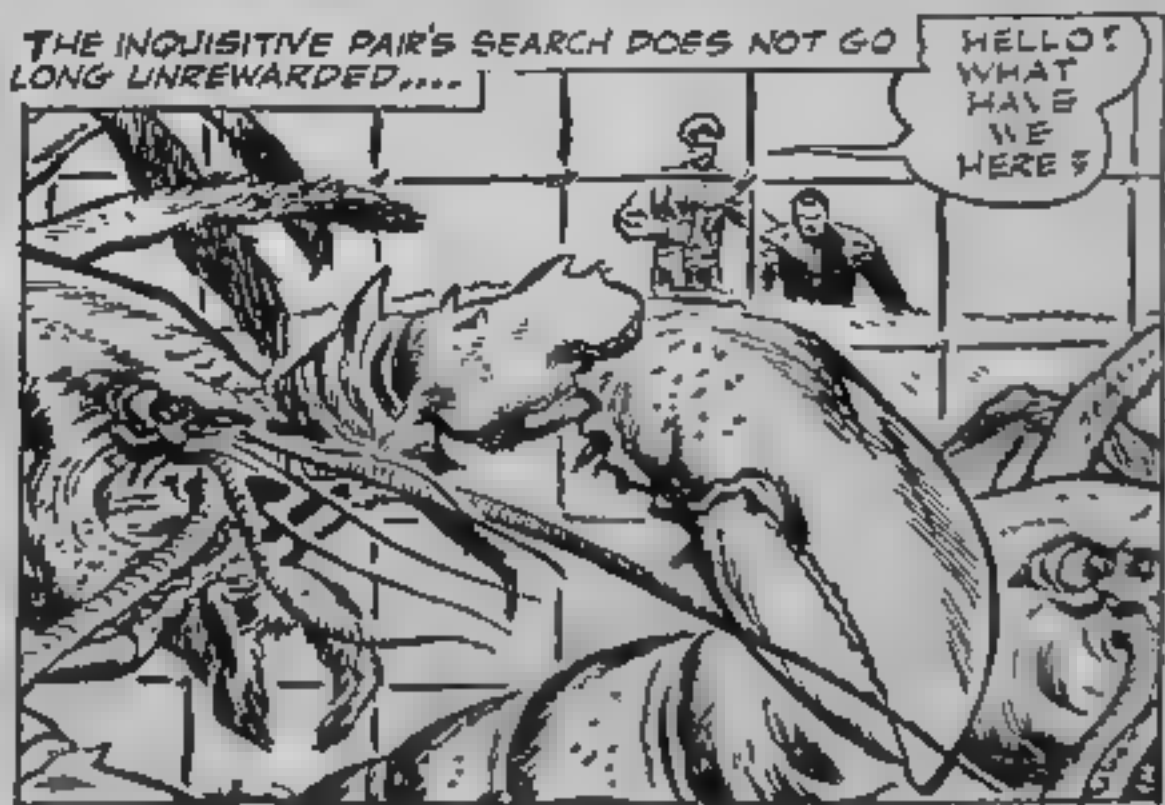
FROM THEN ON THE MONTHS BECAME AN ENDLESS SOJOURN OF BITTER LONELINESS, UNTIL...



IN THE THE ELABORATE FEELING AND SPACE NEEDED DROVE TANGENT TO EACH A MORE RELEVANT...



BUT ALL THIS IS HISTORY. THE PRESENT IS BROUGHT SHARPLY INTO FOCUS BY A HARSH CRY...





IN THE DEAD DARKNESS OF THIS NIGHT,
THREE SINISTER MAGNATIONS
SOON JOIN IN AN EVIL
ALLIANCE...



SEVERAL MONTHS LATER AN UNDERSEA
SUB ON A SECRET MISSION...



WE CAN'T GET CLOSE
TO SURPRISE THE INHABIT-
ANTS AT ANYTHING UN-
USUAL, BUT THERE HAVE
BEEN SOME STRANGE
RUMORS...



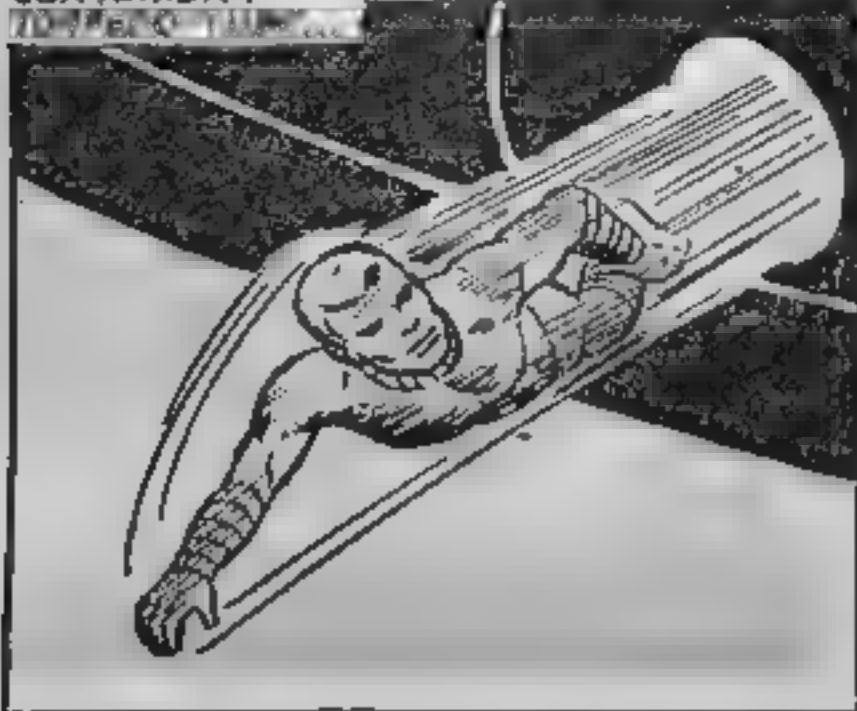
AND WE'VE BEEN IN-
STRUCTED TO MAKE A
THOROUGH SECURITY
CHECK...



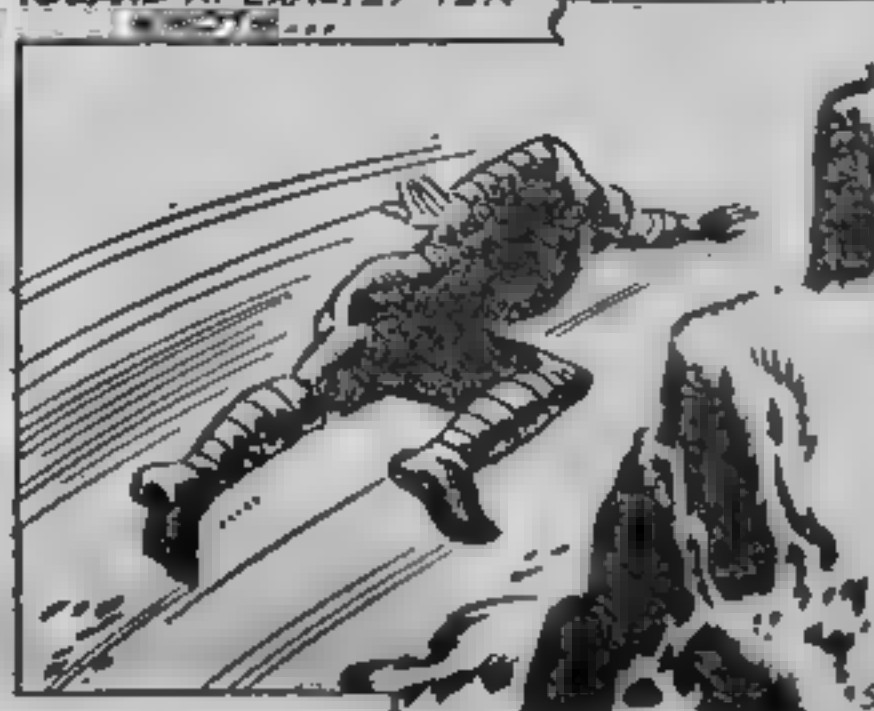
WITHIN TWENTY MILES...
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE
TO SWIM THAT IN TWO
HOURS, RIGHT?

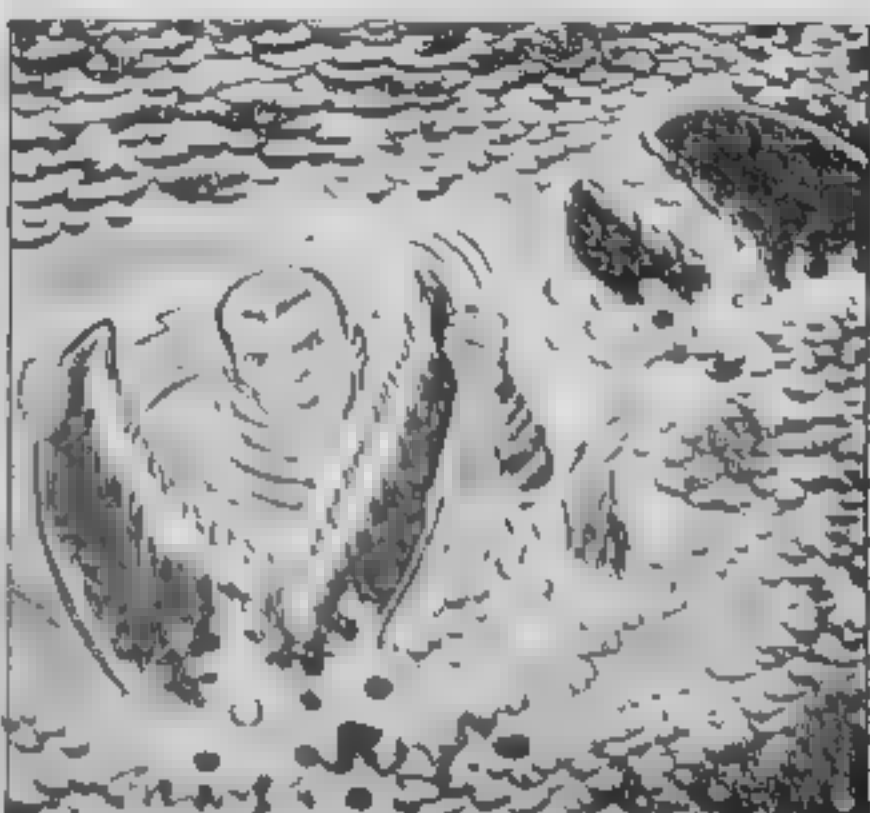
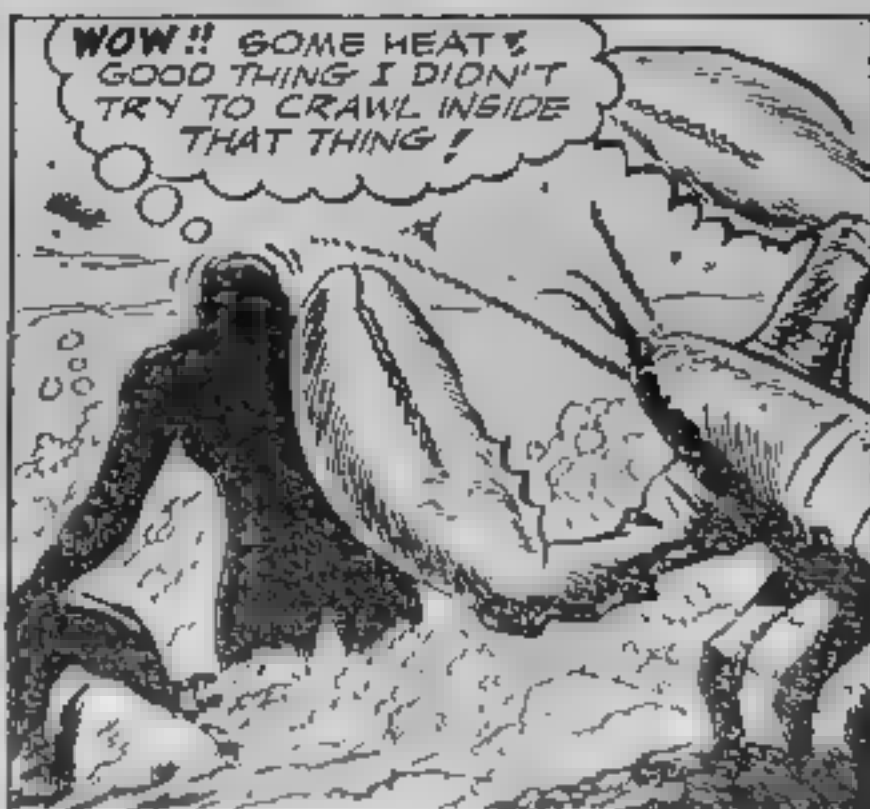
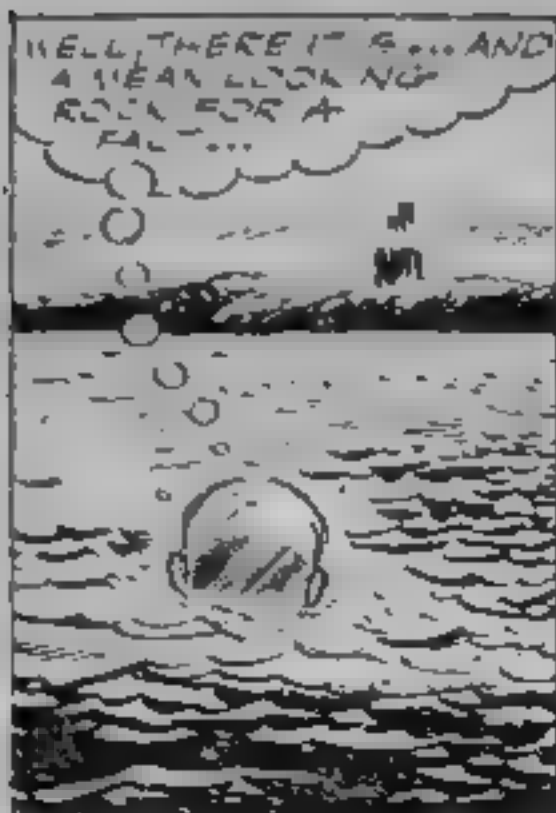


AS THE SUB FLOATS SILENTLY BENEATH
THE WAVES, MERMAN EXITS FROM A
CONVENIENT



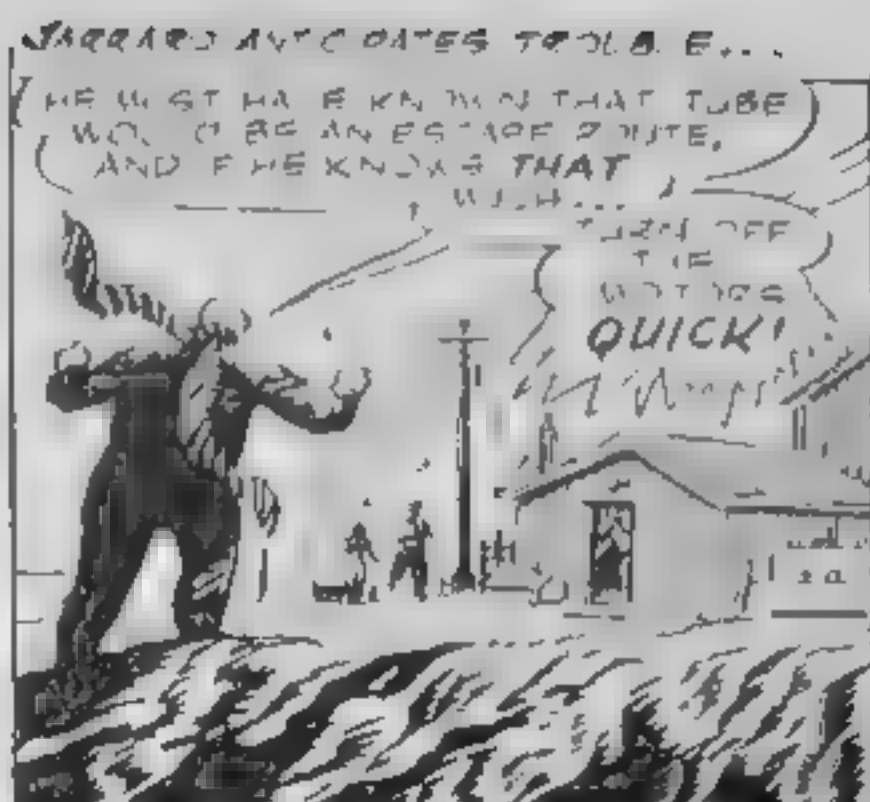
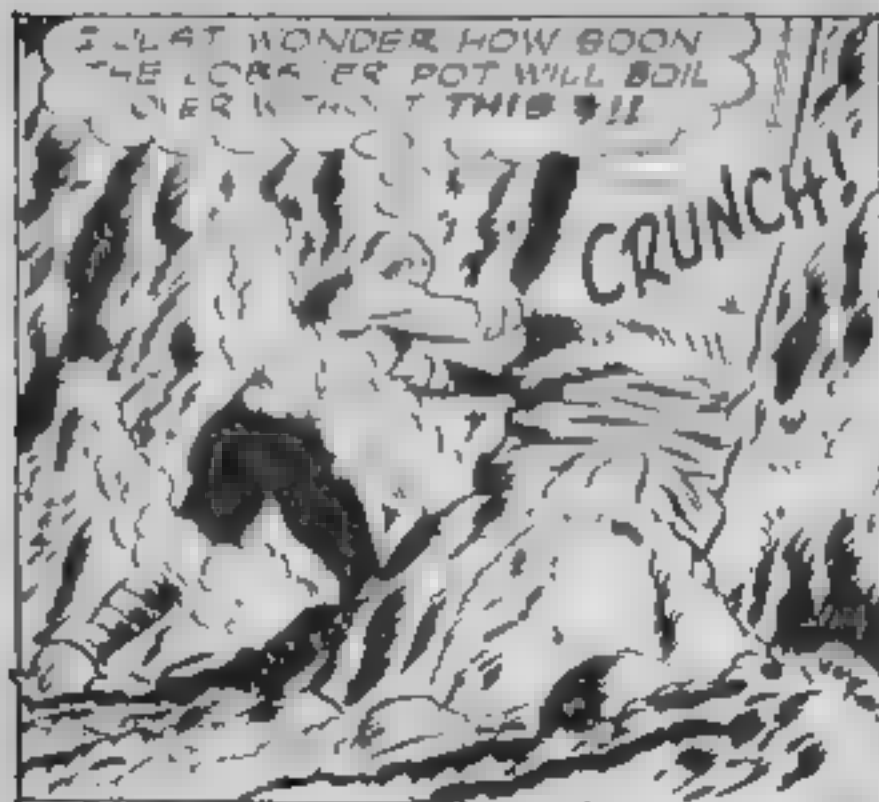
AND WITH ONLY HIS WRIST COMPASS AS
A GUIDE, SWIMS STEADILY TOWARD THE
ISLAND AT EXACTLY TEN













THE REVERBERATION OF THE BLAST REACHES MERMAN, ALREADY SWIMMING STRONGLY, A MILE AWAY FROM THE SHORE.



IT WAS ONLY A TOY, A MECHANIZED MAN MADE OF STEEL AND ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS AND FILMS! YET, WHAT EVIL LURKED BEHIND ITS FIXED GRIN AND DISRUPTED THE LIVES OF ITS POSSESSORS?

CHILD'S PLAY!



BUT MANNING NEVER TOOK "NO" FOR AN ANSWER! IT BECAME A PERSONAL CHALLENGE TO HIM...



AT THE MANNING HOME THAT EVENING...



ROD, WHY DID YOU HAVE TO BRING THAT MONSTER HOME? ISN'T CHARLES SPOILED ENOUGH?

IF I WANT TO SPOIL MY SON, I'LL SPOIL HIM! IT'S GOOD FOR HIM TO KNOW HIS FATHER IS STUFFED WITH MONEY AND HE CAN HAVE ANYTHING HE WANTS!



LOOK AT OLD PRINCE RUNNING AWAY FROM THE ROBOT! HAW/HAW! HE'S SO SCARED, HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! THIS IS TERRIFIC, POP!

I KNEW YOU'D LIKE IT, SON! NOW YOU RUN ALONG AND TRY ALL THOSE BUTTONS! SEE WHAT YOU CAN MAKE HIM DO!

LATER THAT EVENING, AT THE CHILD'S BEDTIME...



GOOD NIGHT, CHARLIE! ARE YOU SURE YOU TURNED THE ROBOT OFF? WE DON'T WANT HIM CLANKING AROUND THE HOUSE ALL NIGHT! HA, HA!

I SURE GAVE HIM A WORK-OUT, BUT HE'S ALL TURNED OFF NOW! SEE, HIS LIGHTS ARE OFF!

BUT EARLY THE NEXT MORNING...



ROD! COME QUICKLY! SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED!



HE'S NOT DEAD...JUST BADLY FRIGHTENED! I JUST WONDER HOW THE ROBOT GOT OUT HERE AT NIGHT?

I DON'T WANT THAT EVIL-LOOKING THING IN THIS HOUSE ANY MORE! GET RID OF IT, ROD!



I WANT MY ROBOT! DON'T TAKE IT AWAY, POP!

LOOK HOW YOU'VE UPSET HIM, ALICE! OF COURSE YOU'LL KEEP THE ROBOT! THIS DOG IS YELLOW... WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GET YOU ANOTHER DOG!

SEVERAL EVENINGS LATER...



(GUFF) GUESS
THE SMOKE! WHAT
CAN IT BE?

HARRY D.
I THINK A
FIRE BROKEN
OUT

THE LIVING ROOM COULD BE
A MAJOR FIRE

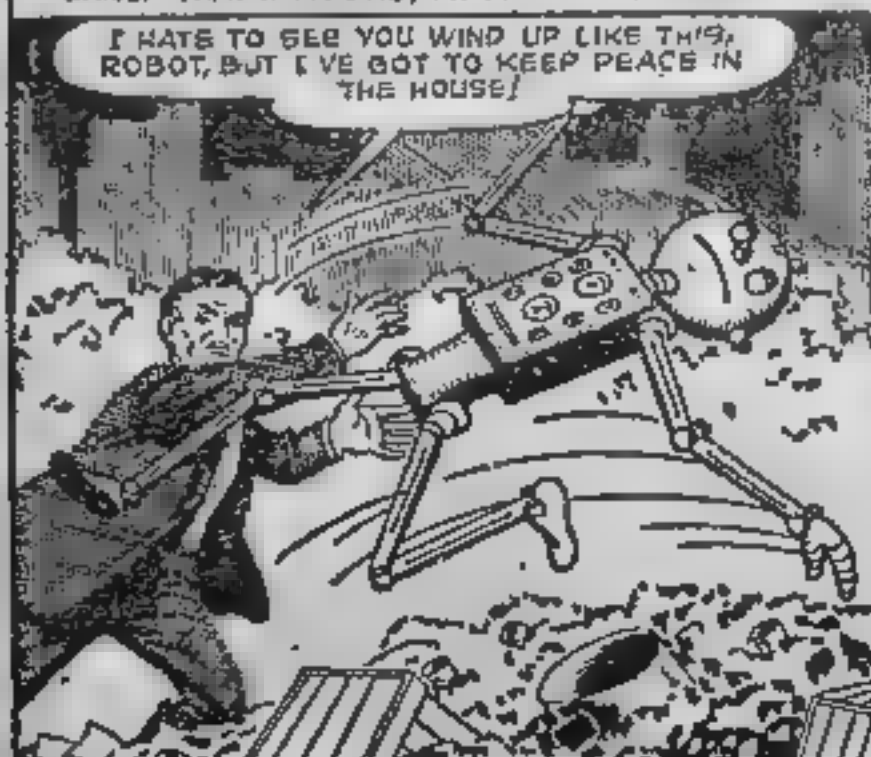


THE FIRE IS
OUT OF CONTROL!
BECAUSE OF THE
FIRE, THE

NO ONE LATER



EARLY THAT MORNING, AT A NEARBY DUMP...



I HATE TO SEE YOU WIND UP LIKE THIS,
ROBOT, BUT I'VE GOT TO KEEP PEACE IN
THE HOUSE!

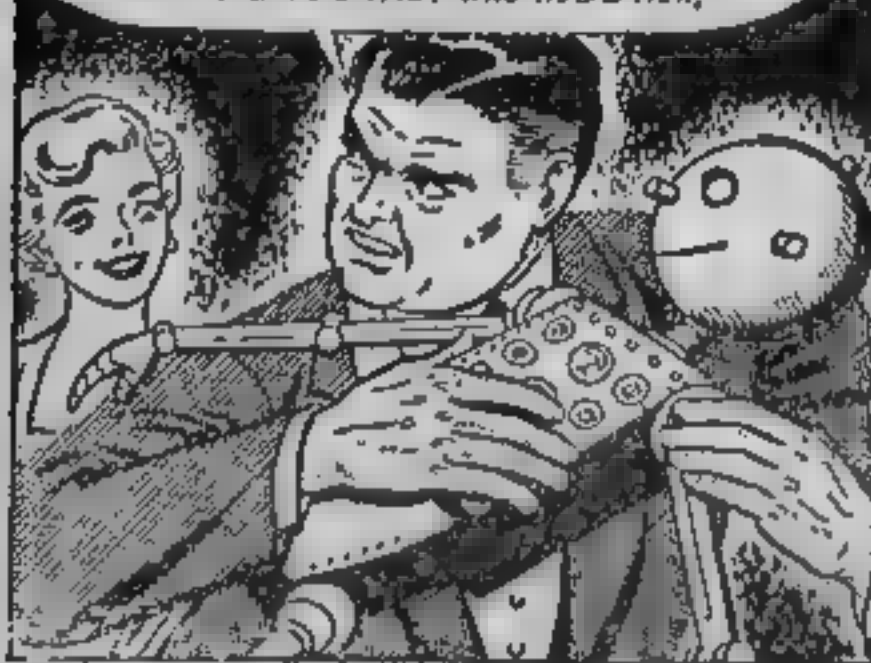
BUT LATER THAT EVENING UPON HIS RETURN...



R.D. I THOUGHT YOU
PROMISED TO GET R.D. OF IT,
WHY DID YOU BRING IT HOME
AGAIN?

WITH MY
ROBOT, I'VE
GONE BACK

I DUMPED THIS ROBOT A MILE FROM THE
HOUSE, BUT SOMEHOW HE CAME BACK!
HE WON'T GET AWAY TONIGHT! I'LL CHAIN HIM IN
THE BASEMENT AND TOMORROW I'M RETURNING
HIM TO THE SCIENTIST WHO MADE HIM!



JUST BEFORE BREAKFAST THE NEXT MORNING...



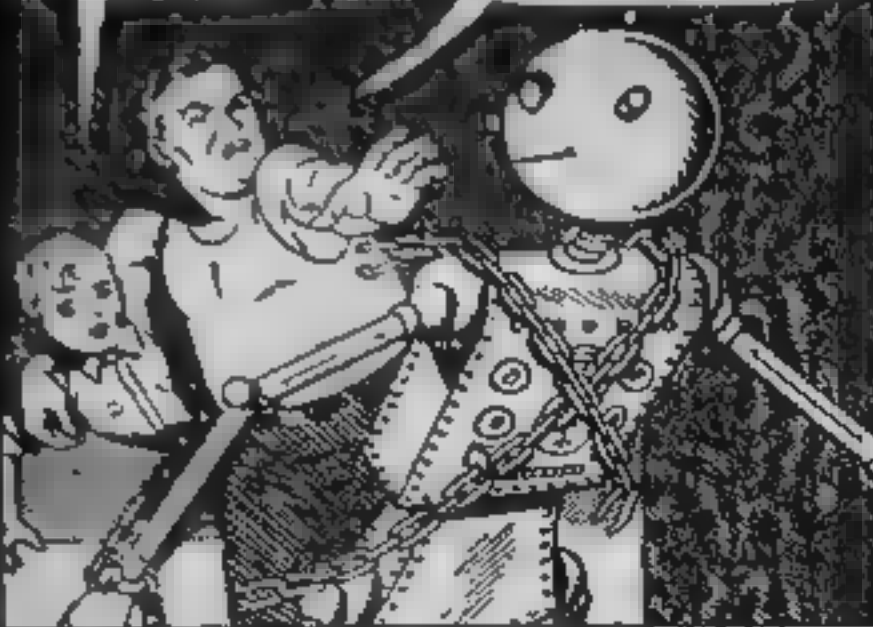
ROD, I SMELL GAS
IN THE HOUSE...
AND LISTEN...
THAT CLANKING
NOISE!

IT'S THAT CRAZY ROBOT!
HE MUST HAVE BROKEN
LOOSE! OPEN ALL THE
DOORS AND WINDOWS!

AS IF DENGING DANGER WITH ITS STRANGE ELECTRONIC INTELLIGENCE...

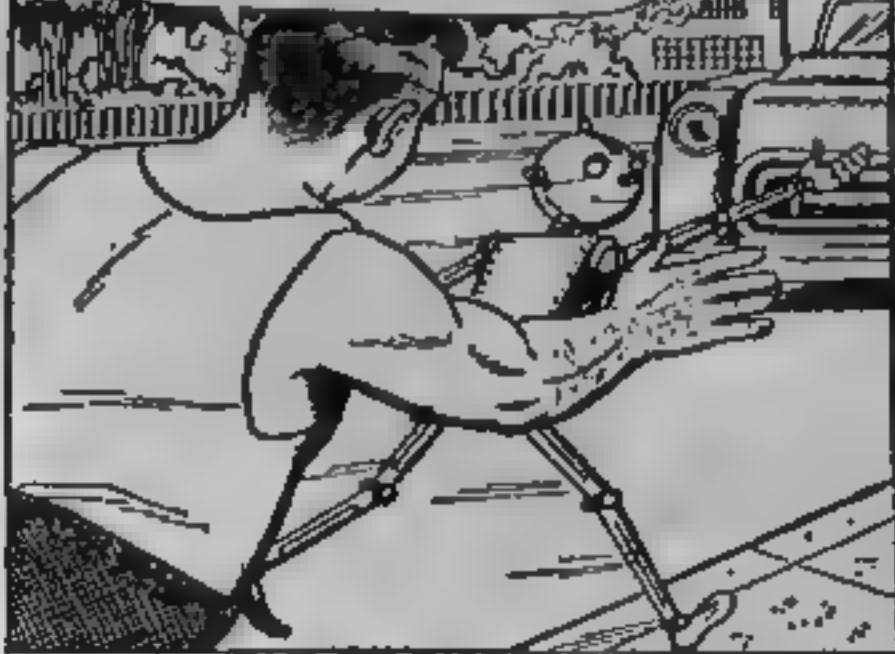
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY DAD! SMASH HIM TO BITS!

COME BACK HERE! THIS IS THE LAST BIT OF MAYHEM YOU'LL PULL!



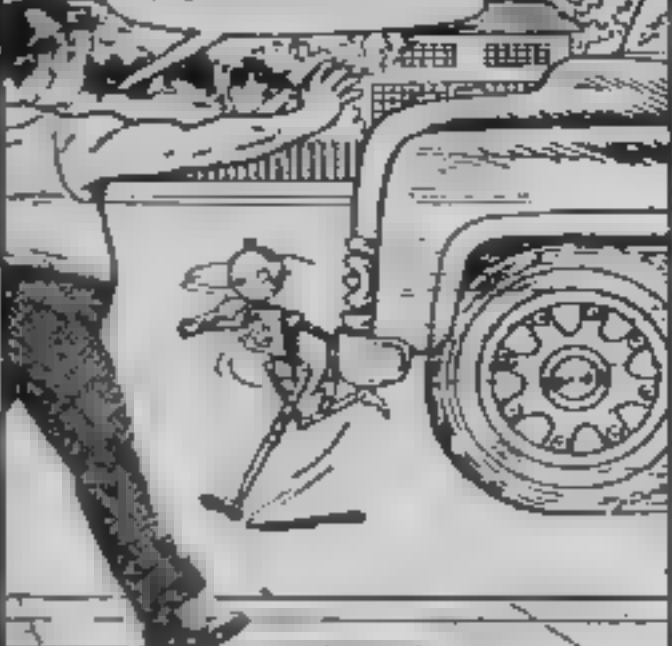
EVEN MANNING'S BURST OF SPEED COULDN'T KEEP PACE WITH THE METAL MONSTER...

THAT THING MOVES LIKE LIGHTNING! IT'S GETTING AWAY FROM ME!



CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO DANGERS, THE 'ROBOT SPUN BACK...

IT'S FANTASTIC! HOW CAN A METAL THING REACT LIKE THIS? IT'S COMING BACK...

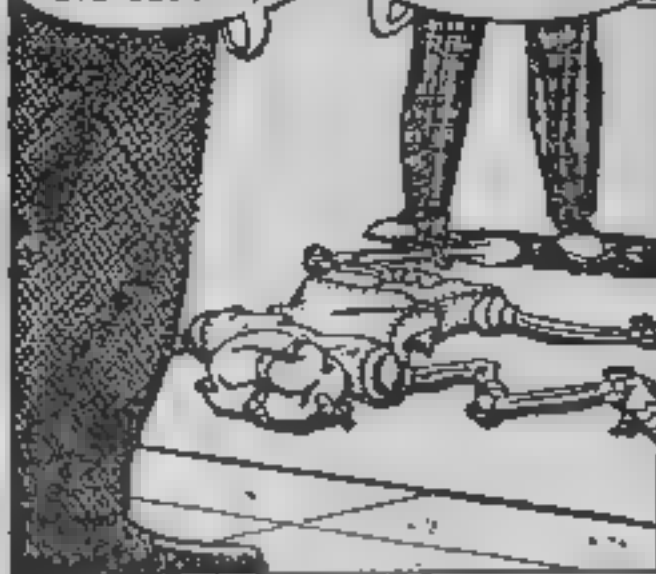


BUT IT WAS TOO LATE TO ESCAPE!



SMASHED TO BITS! SON, WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO! WE'RE TAKING THE REMAINS BACK TO THE SCIENTIST! THIS THING HAS TAUGHT YOUR FATHER A BIG LESSON!

I'M SORRY I EVER WANTED IT! IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG TIME BEFORE I ASK FOR ANOTHER STUPID PRESENT, DAD!



LATER AT 'LEXIA ELECTRONICS...

LET ME SAY IT AGAIN, MR. MANNING, I'M SORRY! I GUESS I THOUGHT THAT HAVING A LOT OF MONEY ALLOWED ME TO THROW MY WEIGHT AROUND... I KNOW BETTER NOW! ISN'T THERE SOME WAY I CAN HELP? MY THING IS RUINED NOW.

NO, MR. MANNING, THE ROBOT IS EXPENDABLE, BUT DECENT PEOPLE WITH GOOD HUMAN PRINCIPLES AREN'T!



HMMM, MANNING THOUGHT EVERYTHING WAS RUINED. TURNED OUT WRONG! BUT HE'S A DIFFERENT PERSON NOW, AND HIS SON WILL BE TOO! I'D SAY THAT EVERYTHING TURNED OUT FINE!



THE END



ED HAZELTINE, WELL-KNOWN PRIVATE EYE, WAS APPLYING FOR A JOB WITH THE TOP SECRET AMERICAN SECURITY GROUP...

I'M DOING YOU PEOPLE A FAVOR, MR. THOMPSON-- THERE'S NOT A SLEUTH IN THE COUNTRY WHO'S EVEN IN MY CLASS!

HERE'S THE CASEBOOK OF ONE OF OUR BEST OPERATIVES, JOHN FORCE! LOOK THROUGH JUST ONE OF THE CASES-- AND WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED, TELL ME WHETHER YOU

STILL WANT TO WORK FOR ASS!



"I FELL INTO THE CASE OF THE BOTTLED MICROBES ACCIDENT. ALL I'D BEEN TRACKING DOWN A FOREIGN OP SMUGGLING ILLICITS INTO THE U.S. WHEN I CLOSED IN, IT WAS EITHER HE OR I..."



HE WAS DYING WHEN WE GOT HIM TO THE HOSPITAL-- BUT WHAT HE LET FALL IN HIS SAVINGS SOUNDED IMPORTANT...

THEY GOT ME-- BUT THEY WON'T STOP YOU FROM GETTING IN! IT'LL BE WORSE-- THAN AN ATOM BOMB ATTACK--



WISH I KNEW WHAT THAT WAS ALL ABOUT, JOHN.

YOU LOOK TRED CHIEF. SUPPOSE YOU RUN ALONG AND LEAVE THIS TO ME!

"THERE'S NOTHING THAT BEATS HAVING A LOOK AT A MAN'S THOUGHTS-- EVEN WHEN HE'S GOING FAST..."

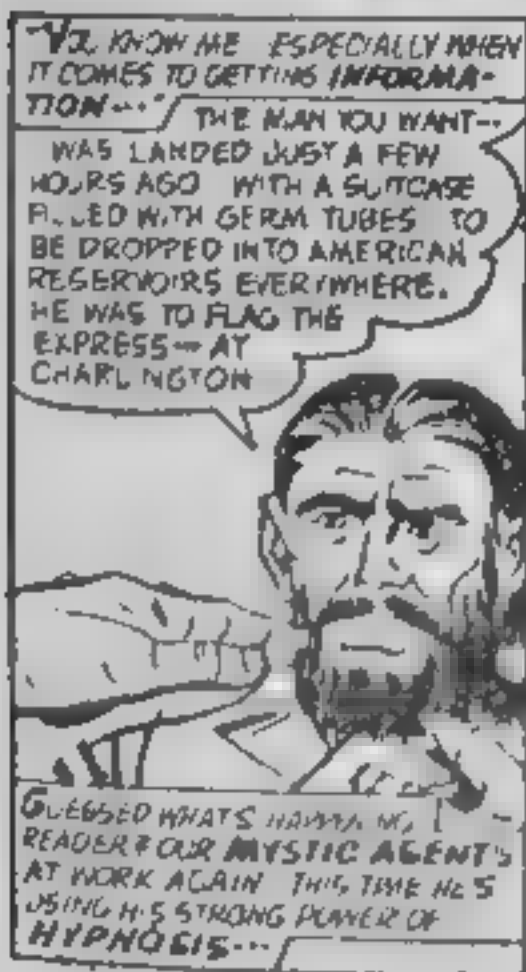
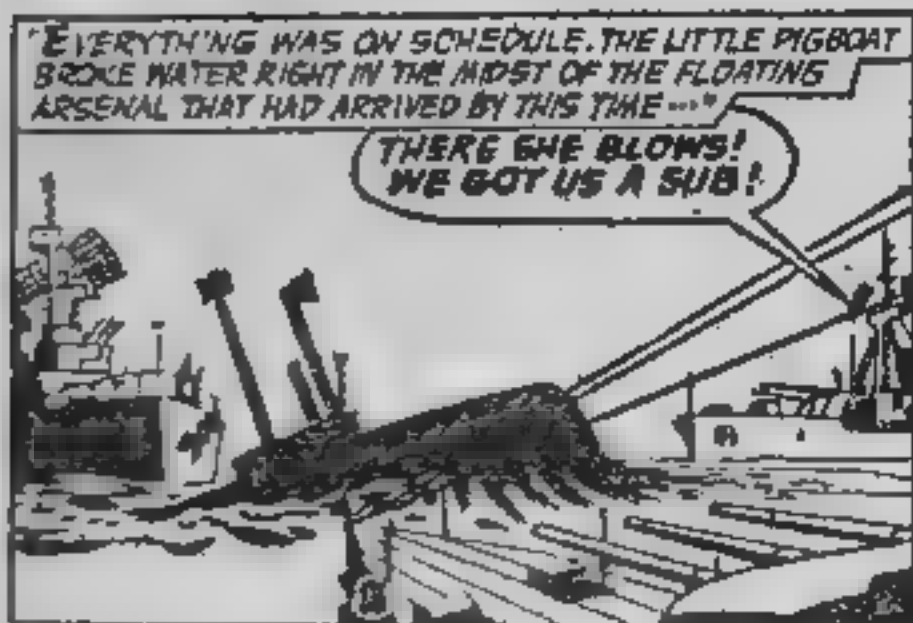


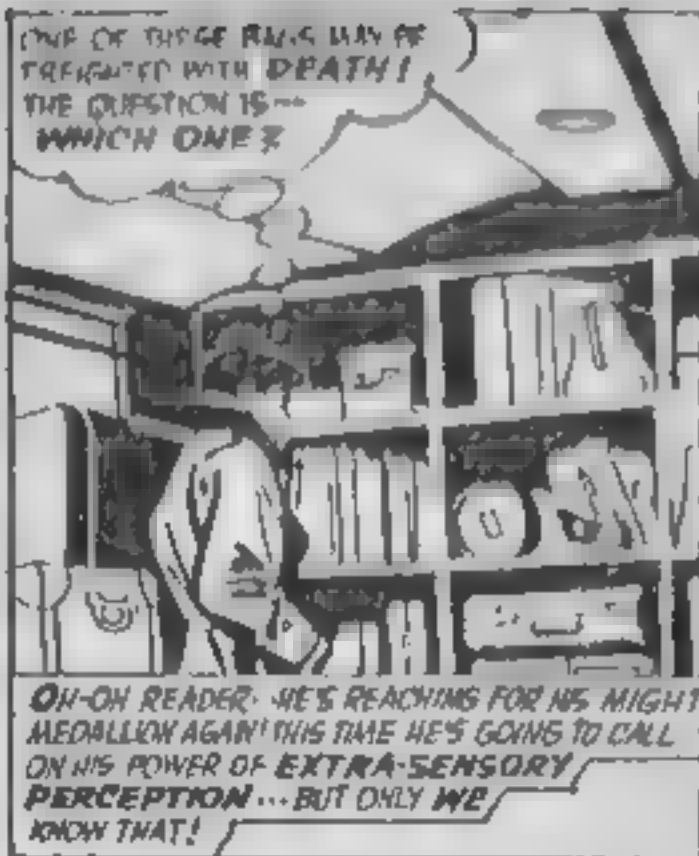
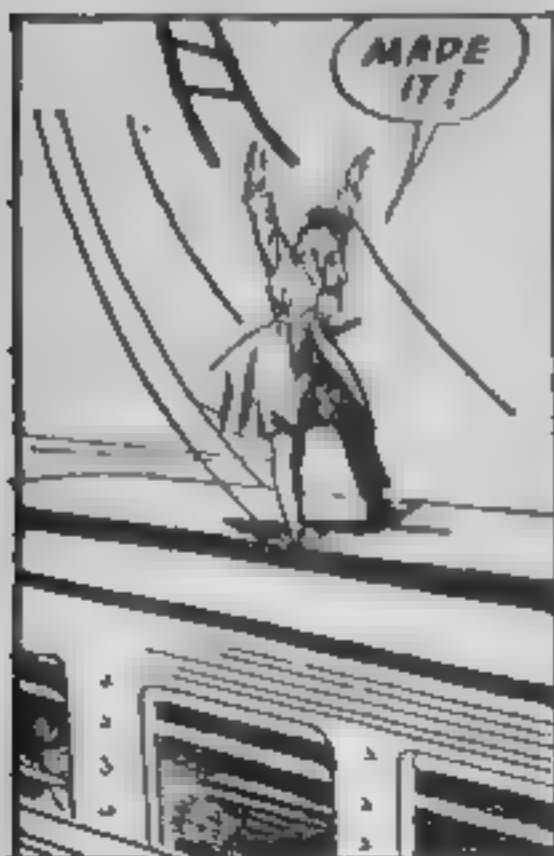
WE KNOW WHAT JOHN FORCE IS UP TO-- DON'T HE, READERS? IN HIS HAND IS HIS MIGHTY MEDALLION, AND HE'S PRESSING THE PILLAR OF TELEPATHY-- A TELEPATHIC POWER SO STRONG THAT ANYTHING THOUGHT CAN BE ACTUALLY SEEN!

"I KNEW I HAD TO GET THERE FAST AND SEE WHAT GAVE WITH THAT SUB BUT WHEN I REACHED THE AREA..."



NOTHING-- BUT SHE MAY HAVE SUBMERGED TO WAIT OUT THE ROUGH WEATHER OUTSIDE THE BAY-- GO ON DOWN PILOT-- AND WHILE I CHANGE RADIO THE COAST GUARD AND NAVY FOR SURFACE CRAFT!





"I KNEW THAT THE MAN I WAS LOOKING FOR WAS HEADED FOR THE CARTORTON HOTEL IN NEW YORK, TO MEET UP WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF ENEMY AGENTS WHO WOULD DISTRIBUTE THE GERMS EVERYWHERE! THAT'S WHERE I WENT, ON THE DOUBLE..."

I KNOW THAT A LOT OF MEN WITH SUITCASES MUST HAVE CHECKED INTO THE HOTEL THIS MORNING... BUT THE ONE I'M LOOKING FOR PLANS TO MEET WITH A FAIRLY LARGE GROUP

NO CONVENTION ON TAP FOR TODAY... BUT MR. RAYEL WHO REGISTERED TODAY DID ARRANGE FOR AN EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM 1500-A... THE CONFERENCE IS GOING ON RIGHT NOW!

I HAVE THE...ER...MERCHANDISE IN THIS SUITCASE --AND EACH OF YOU MEN KNOWS WHERE IT'S TO BE DISTRIBUTED! GUARANTEED TO WORK WONDERS FOR THE WATER SUPPLY... NA-HA!

1500-A

THIS IS IT, ALL RIGHT! I CAN'T LET HIM DISTRIBUTE THAT LOAD OF DEADLY GERMS... SOME OF THOSE MEN MIGHT GET AWAY SO... HERE GOES!

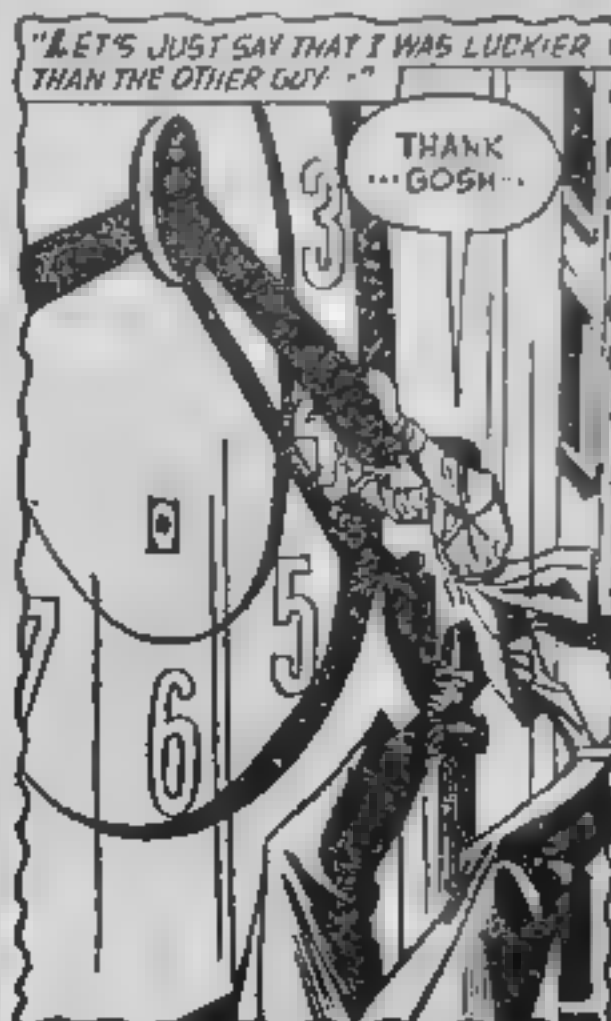


AMERICAN SECURITY GROUP RAID! DON'T MOVE... YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST!



THAT 'LITTLE EFFECT'... HE WAS SUMMONING UP AN ILLUSION, THE KIND HE WAS FAMOUS FOR, FIRE!





HIS ACTIONS WERE THOSE OF A MAN GOING THRU PRE-ORDAINED MOTIONS! HIS LIPS UTTERED WORDS THAT SEEMED TO SPILL FROM SOME SUBCONSCIOUS RESERVOIR! AS IF HE WERE A VICTIM OF SOME SUBTLE BRAIN-WASHING PLOT!

THE PUPPET MAN



THE MAN STEADIED HIMSELF AGAINST THE FINE ITALIAN MARBLE MANTEL... FOUGHT THE ONRUSHING DARKNESS OF FRIGHT AND NAUSEA... CALLED ON ALL INNER RESOURCES TO QUIET THE PANIC THAT THREATENED TO ENGULF HIM!



IT ISN'T A DREAM... MY SENSES TELL ME THAT! YET... WHY IS THE FAMILIAR AND THE STRANGE SO HOPELESSLY ENMESHED? THIS CHAIR... I FEEL AS IF..IF I'VE SAT IN IT COUNTLESS TIMES!



HE HEARD A CLOCK SOUND THE AWFUL SECONDS OF DOOM AS HE STRAINED TO REACH SOME TOUCHSTONE TO REALITY! THEN... SUDDENLY... THE SILENCE WAS BROKEN BY SOMETHING ELSE! THE RUSH OF FEELS... A DOOR RUDELY FLUNG OPEN!

EDWARD! YOU ... YOU'RE STILL HERE?



MYRNA, MY DEAR! YOU LOOK GHASTLY! COME IN AND...

D-DON'T TOUCH ME! THERE'S BLOOD ON THOSE HANDS! THE BLOOD OF MY BROTHER... AS IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW!



BLOOD...? WHY, THEY'RE CLEAN AS A HOUND'S TOOTH! LOOK!

BLOOD! BROTHER?! WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME DOES MYRNA MEAN...! MYRNA! HOW DO I KNOW HER NAME?



IT'S TOO LATE, EDWARD! FOR ALL YOUR CLEVERNESS... THE POLICE KNOW: MURDERER...!

MURDER! I I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! IT... IT'S SOME DIABOLICAL PLOT... A FRAME-UP!



TIME... I NEED TIME! GOT TO FIGURE OUT THIS NIGHTMARE! FIND OUT WHO I AM!

INTENDING TO DO SOME TRAVELING BUDDY!



LURID, UNBELIEVABLE HAPPENINGS... UNREELING IN A CEASELESS BAD DREAM! A TRAP, HE THOUGHT, AND THE WORDS ROARED IN HIS EARS TO THE TEMPO OF HIS VIOLENTLY BEATING HEART...

HE WAS ALWAYS JEALOUS OF MICHAEL! AND THIS AFTERNOON...



SHE'S LYING, I TELL YOU! MICHAEL AND I WERE FOND OF EACH OTHER... CLOSE! EVER SINCE PREP-SCHOOL DAYS AT CAREY MILITARY!

MICHAEL... CAREY MILITARY! WH-WHY DO MY LIPS TALK LIKE THAT?



THIRD DEGREE! THE MERCILESS STREAM OF QUESTIONS ... AND THE STRANGE HORROR OF LISTENING TO HIS ANSWERS! VIVID, DETAILED ANSWERS! AS IF SOME MONSTER SPOKE FOR HIM!

NO, NO! YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG! I LEFT HIM AT THE CLUB AT PRECISELY TWO! I REMEMBER MENTIONING THAT I WAS ALREADY AN HOUR LATE FOR ANOTHER APPOINTMENT!



YEAH... AN APPOINTMENT WITH A PATENT ATTORNEY! YOU WASTED NO TIME GETTING THE RIGHTS TO AN INVENTION THAT BELONGED TO THE DECEASED! LOOK...

YOU... YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT...?



YEAH! WE KNOW THE WHOLE STORY!

ALL RIGHT... ALL RIGHT! I HATED THEM BOTH! MYRNA AND MICHAEL ... THE WAY THEY LOOKED ON ME AS A POOR LITTLE COUNTRY COUSIN ... TO BE INDULGED ... TO BE LAUGHED AT...



MICHAEL HIT ON A CHEMICAL PROCESS THAT WILL REVOLUTIONIZE THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY! THE RIGHTS COULD MAKE ANY MAN A KING! I ... I'LL WRITE A FULL CONFESSION ... JUST LET ME ALONE FOR A MINUTE ... WHILE I THINK ABOUT THE EMPIRE ... I'LL NEVER HAVE!



HE SAT IN THE QUIET ROOM ... FEEL A SOOTHING CALMNESS TOUCH HIS SPENT AND TIRED SOUL! LIKE THE SEA, HE THOUGHT ... AND HEARD THE WAVES BREAKING ... BREAKING...

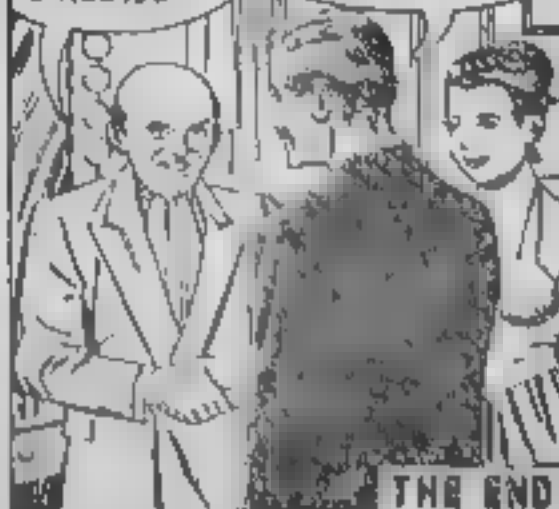


THEN ... SUDDENLY ... LIKE A SUN BURNING THROUGH AN ETERNAL FOG ... HE OPENED HIS EYES ... SAW!



CONGRATULATIONS, MATHEWS! THE FINEST PERFORMANCE OF YOUR CAREER ... THIS CLOSING NIGHT OF THE LONGEST RUN I'VE EVER DIRECTED!

THANKS ... THANKS ROD! I'M KIND OF WEARY ... GLAD THE RUN IS OVER! I ... I THINK I'M GOING TO TAKE A LONG, LONG REST!



THE END

IT WAS AN AMAZING CONSPIRACY STRIKING AT THE LIVES AND SECURITY OF EVERY PERSON ON EARTH! YOU'LL BASP AT THE CUNNING EVIL, THE SMASHING SHOCK THAT LAY BEHIND...

THE PLOT!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE... BUT YOU'RE ME! WHAT KIND OF PLOT IS THIS?



THE PLOT:-
LORNA CASS
THE DRAWING:-
SAM CITRON

EDGAR THOMPSON WAS EXECUTIVE SUPERVISOR OF THE HUGE MERRITT POWER HOUSE. HE WAS PROUD OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES, THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS JOB.



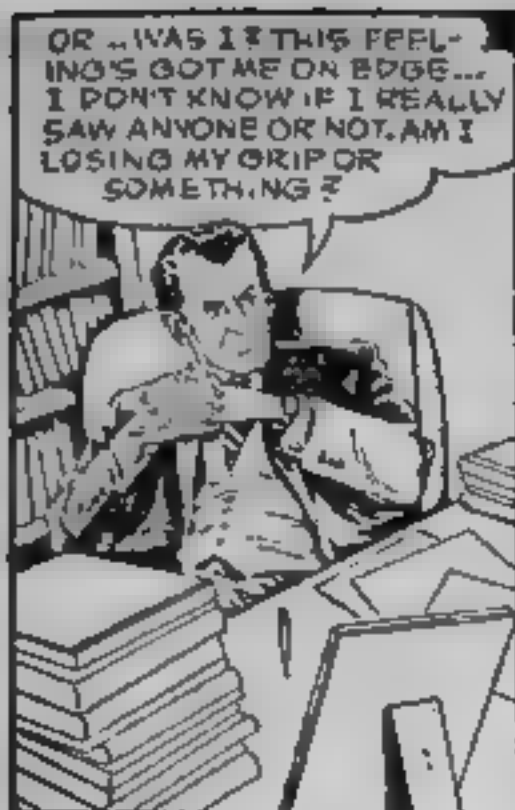
BUT OF LATE, SOMETHING HAD BEEN TROUBLING HIM... SOMETHING DISTURBING...

THERE IT IS AGAIN... THAT STRANGE FEELING THAT I'M BEING WATCHED, SPIED ON! AS IF SOME-BODY'S STARING AT ME...



YOU, THERE... WHAT ARE YOU UP TO? I WAS RIGHT!





OR... WAS IT THIS FEELING'S GOT ME ON EDGE... I DON'T KNOW IF I REALLY SAW ANYONE OR NOT. AM I LOSING MY GRIP OR SOMETHING?

BUT THEN THE TRUSTFUL EYES OF THE GIRL IN THE PHOTOGRAPH REASSURED HIM...



MARGE... SHE WOULDN'T BELIEVE THAT ANYTHING COULD MAKE ME LOSE MY GRIP. I'VE JUST GOT TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER, THAT'S ALL.



HE FORGOT ABOUT HIS DISTURBING FEARS... BUT THEY CAME BACK WITH A RUSH THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON, WHEN...

KILOWATT HOURS ARE INCREASING, AND... IS THERE ANYTHING **WRONG**, SIRT THAT EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE...



WHY, THAT'S THE FRAME YOUR GIRL FRIEND'S PICTURE WAS IN... BUT SOMEBODY'S CUT IT OUT!

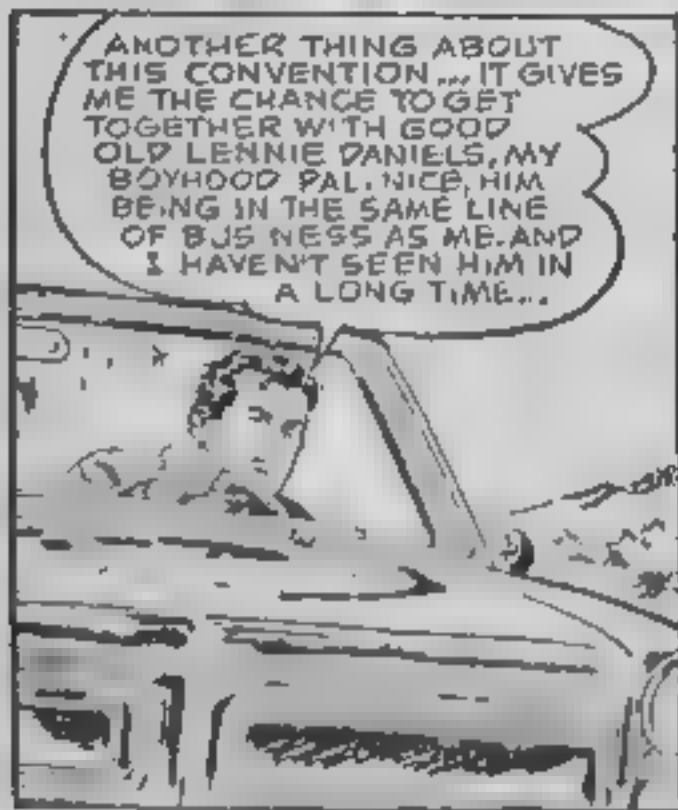
YES, WHO COULD HAVE DONE SUCH A THING AND **WHY?**

THE FOLLOWING WEEK, HE LEFT TO ATTEND A CONVENTION OF POWERHOUSE EXECUTIVES...

WHAT A REASON FOR LEAVING ME, EDGAR. I'M GOING TO BE SO LONESOME...



CAN'T HELP IT MARGE. MONEY. THAT CONVENTION'S IMPORTANT BECAUSE POWERHOUSE'S ARE IMPORTANT TO MODERN CIVILIZATION AND DAILY LIFE!



ANOTHER THING ABOUT THIS CONVENTION... IT GIVES ME THE CHANCE TO GET TOGETHER WITH GOOD OLD LENNIE DANIELS, MY BOYHOOD PAL. NICE, HIM BEING IN THE SAME LINE OF BUSINESS AS ME. AND I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN A LONG TIME...

AT THE CONVENTION...

LENNIE! YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!



UH... YOU HAVEN'T EITHER, MR. ...MR. ...UH...

WELCOME, POWERHOUSE EXECUTIVES

IT WAS ALMOST AS IF LENNIE DIDN'T REMEMBER HIS NAME! BUT OF COURSE, THAT WAS RIDICULOUS... IT WAS PROBABLY JUST THE PRESSURE OF BUSINESS...



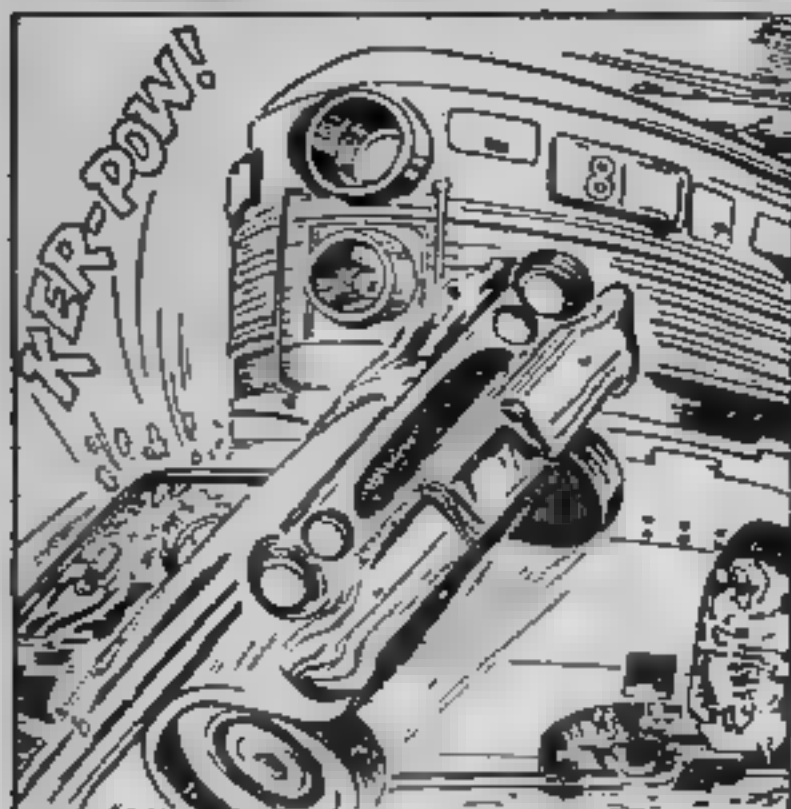
HIM? BOY, YOU WERE ENGAGED TO CHICK ONCE... YOU CAN'T HAVE FORGOTTEN HOW MANY TIMES YOU RUSHING YOUR TIEPIES LIKE THAT GIVE A HEADACHE?



HOW'S VIC ANDOW? STILL IN THE BUSINESS? WEAR LACE AND YOUR GREAT UNCLE JOSHUA'S NECKTIE?

OH, VIC'S GREAT ABOUT GREAT UNCLE JOSH. HE DIED LAST YEAR. I'M GLAD TO SAY.







THAT WAS ALL EDGAR KNEW, WHEN HE AWOKE



HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAD HAPPENED BUT HE KNEW HE HAD TO GET LOOSE. A POWER LAY GAVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY

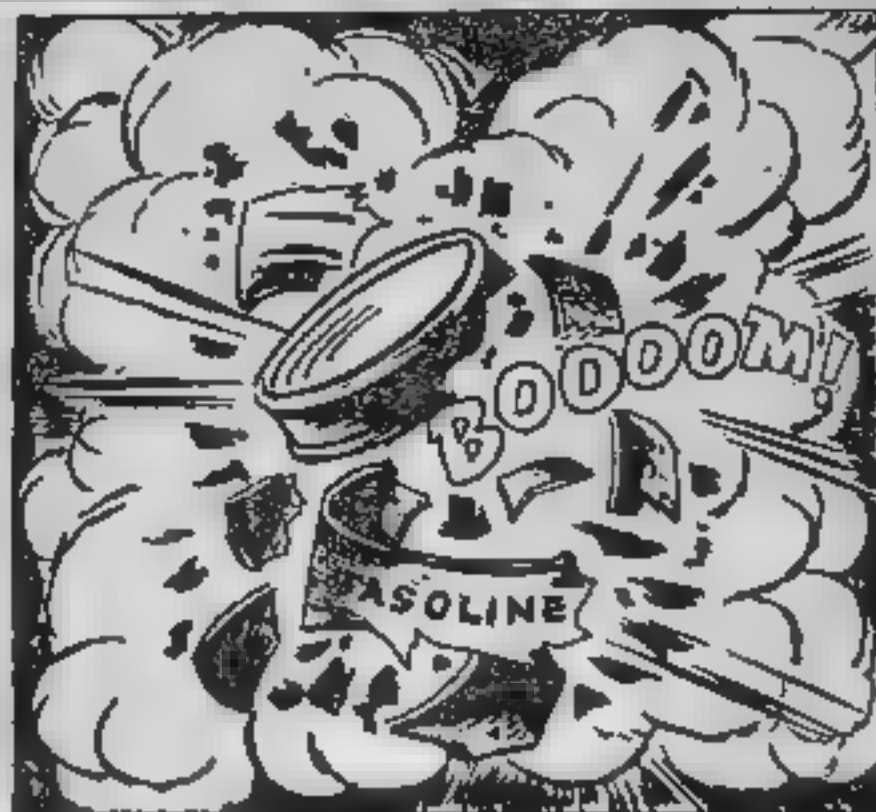


MUFFLED VOICES FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL GAVE HIM A LEAD...

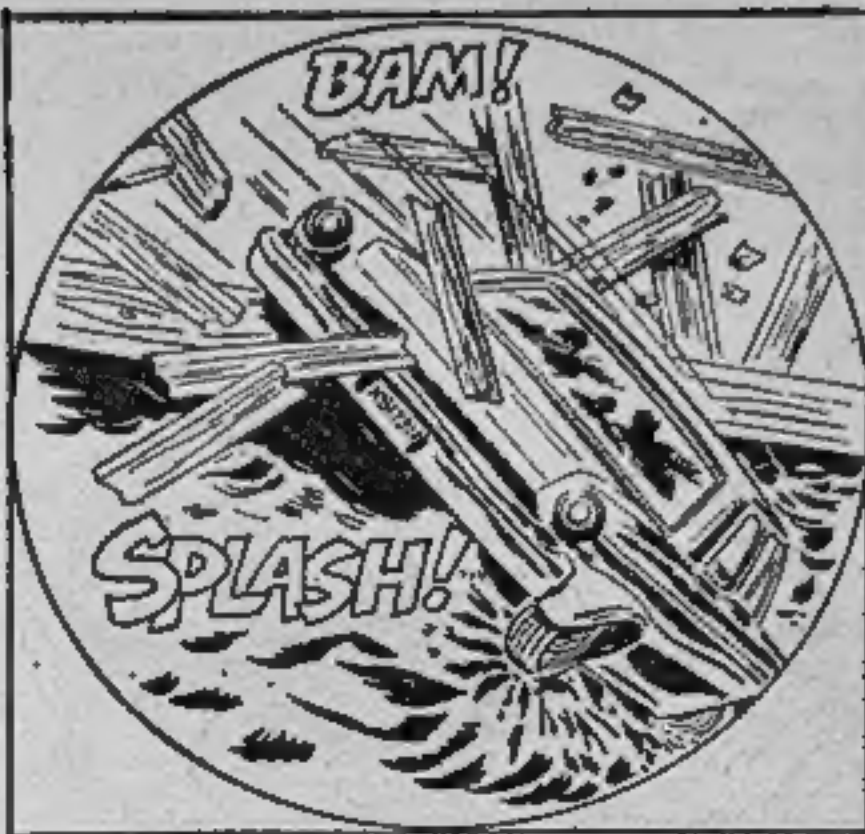


AS THE OVERHEAD GARAGE DOOR RUMBLLED UP...









HOLY SMOKE, HE'S D-DEAD!
ALL OF THEM...THERE'S SOME-
THING ABOUT WATER THEY
CAN'T STAND. WHAT SORT
OF PEOPLE ARE THEY,
ANYWAY? WHAT SORT
MAN IS THIS ONE,
WITH MY FACE?

AND THE ONE WITH LENNIE'S
FACE? AND THE ODD HABIT
THAT ALL OF THEM HAVE,
RAISING THEIR FINGER-
TIPS TO THEIR TEMPLES
...IT'S ALMOST AS IF THEY
WERE TRYING TO ADJUST
SOMETHING!

SUDDENLY, A STRANGE IDEA HIT
HIM. COULD IT BE...?

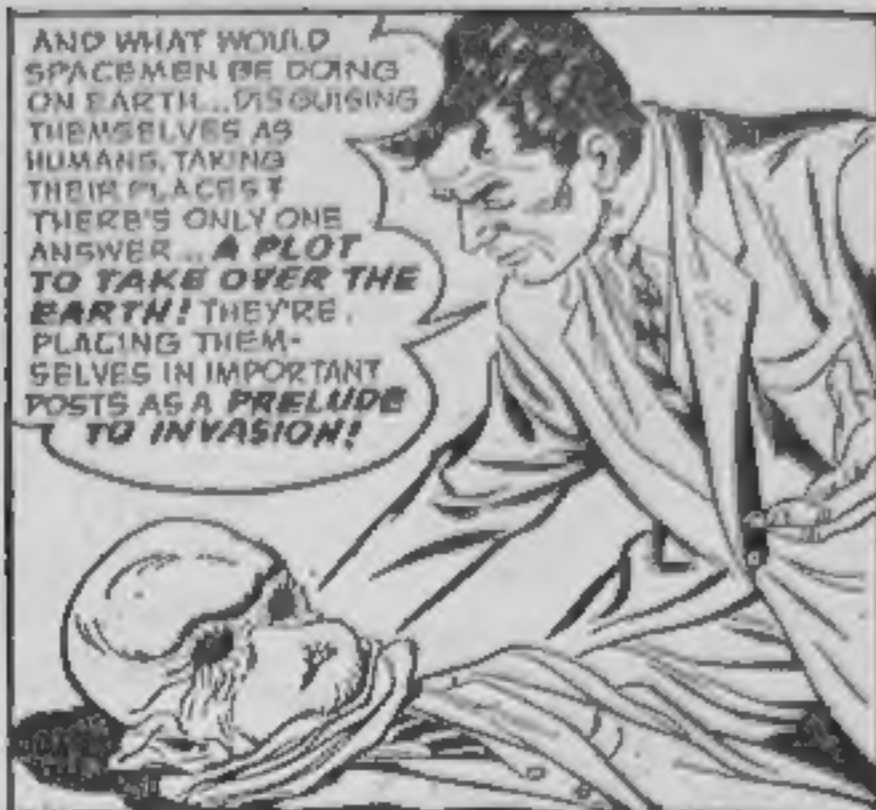
THE SKIN'S STARTING TO
WRINKLE...IT'S SLIDING
DOWN, COMING
OFF!

OFF CAME THE THIN PLASTIC MASK...
AND BENEATH IT...



IT'S NOT A HUMAN
FACE... THERE'S NOTHING ON
EARTH LIKE IT! IT'S GOT TO BE
SOMETHING OFF THE EARTH...
A SPACEMAN!

AND WHAT WOULD
SPACEMEN BE DOING
ON EARTH... DISGUISED
THEMSELVES AS
HUMANS, TAKING
THEIR PLACES?
THERE'S ONLY ONE
ANSWER... **A PLOT
TO TAKE OVER THE
EARTH!** THEY'RE
PLACING THEM-
SELVES IN IMPORTANT
POSTS AS A **PRELUDE
TO INVASION!**



WHEN THEIR FORCES STRIKE,
THESE DISGUISED SPACEMEN CAN
THROW EARTH INTO A FERMENT AND
MAKE VICTORY FOR THEIR SIDE
EASIER! AND IF THEY'RE ALREADY
AT WORK, IT MUST BE COMING
SOON. THERE'S ONLY ONE
THING TO DO... SPREAD
THE WARNING AT ONCE!
LUCKY I ALWAYS CARRY
A MINIATURE CAMERA...



**WASHINGTON, D.C. THE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE...**

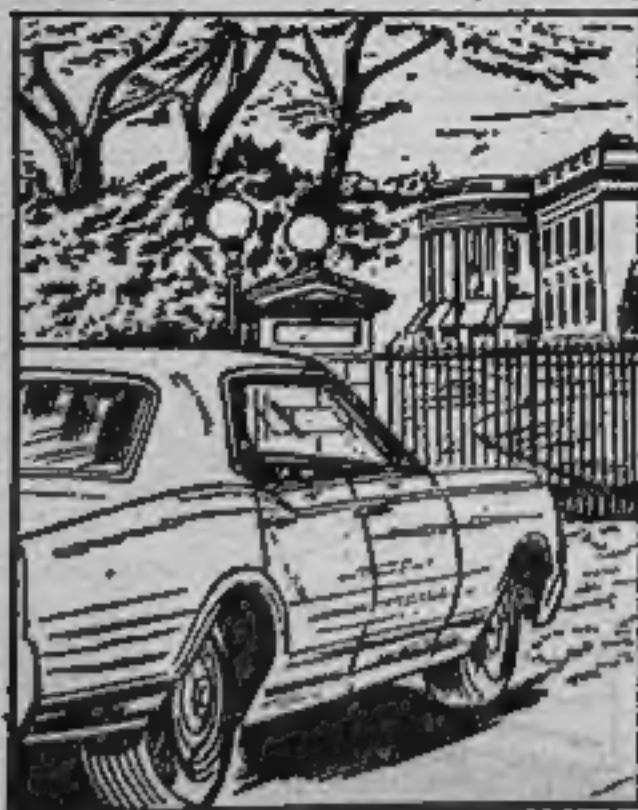
THAT'S A PHOTOGRAPH
OF THAT **THING**...
AND I CAN TAKE
YOU TO WHERE
ITS BODY IS, IF
YOU WANT
FURTHER
PROOF OF
MY STORY.



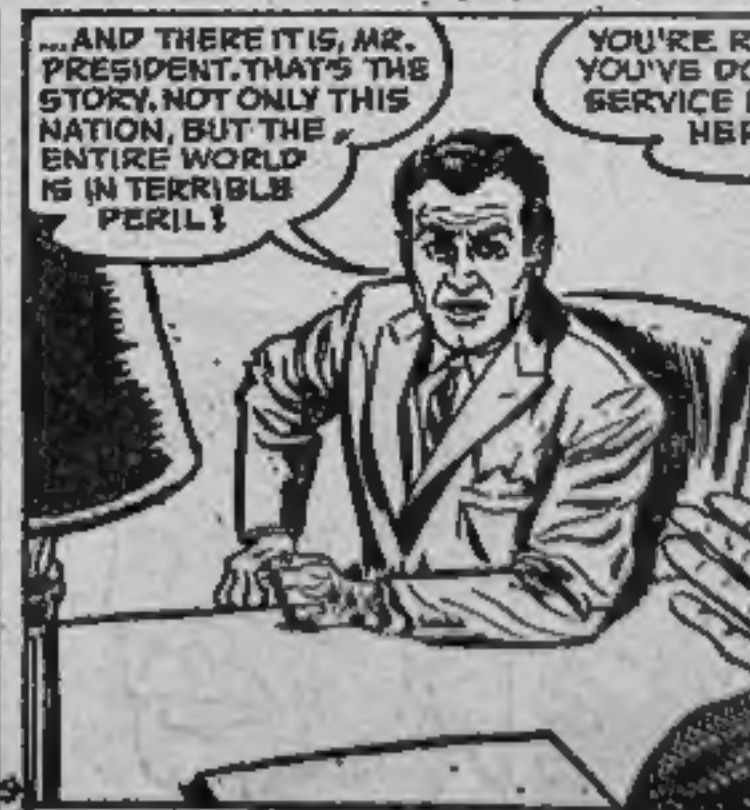
THAT WON'T BE
NECESSARY.
I'VE ALREADY
HAD YOU CHECKED
...A MAN LIKE
YOU WOULDN'T
BRING US SUCH
A STORY UNLESS
YOU COULD BACK
IT UP 100%!



THAT'S WHY I'M BRING-
ING YOU TO A MAN
TO WHOM YOU MUST
REPEAT THAT AMAZING
STORY, WORD FOR WORD,
JUST AS YOU TOLD IT TO
ME. AND THAT MAN IS
**THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED
STATES!**



...AND THERE IT IS, MR.
PRESIDENT. THAT'S THE
STORY. NOT ONLY THIS
NATION, BUT THE
ENTIRE WORLD
IS IN TERRIBLE
PERIL!



YOU'RE RIGHT...AND
YOU'VE DONE A GREAT
SERVICE IN COMING
HERE.





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